美味しんぼ

10

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

スピリッツコミックス好評発売中

美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）… 1～35集
F〈エフ〉（六田登）…… 1～25集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）…… 1～22集
マドンナ（くじらいいく子）…… 1～20集
ジパング少年（いわしげ孝）…… 1～14集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）… 1～6集
男樹（本宮ひろ志）…… 1～6集
出直しといで！（一色まこと）…… 1～4集
天使派リョウ（狩撫麻礼・中村真理子）…… 1～9集
以蔵のキモチ（佐藤宏之）…… 1～3集
14歳（楳図かずお）…… 1～7集
イオナ（澤井健）…… 1～5集
りびんぐゲーム（星里もちる）…… 1～4集
俺節（土田世紀）…… 1～4集
スイートルーム（小池一夫・香川大八）… 1～2集
花男（松本大洋）…… 1集
ＤＩＮＯ〈ディーノ〉（柳沢きみお）…… 1集

装丁／海野一雄
カバー・フォト／山室康夫

美味しんぼ
10
キムチの精神
作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC 760

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ 10

キムチの精神作

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雁屋 哲 花咲アキラ 著作集

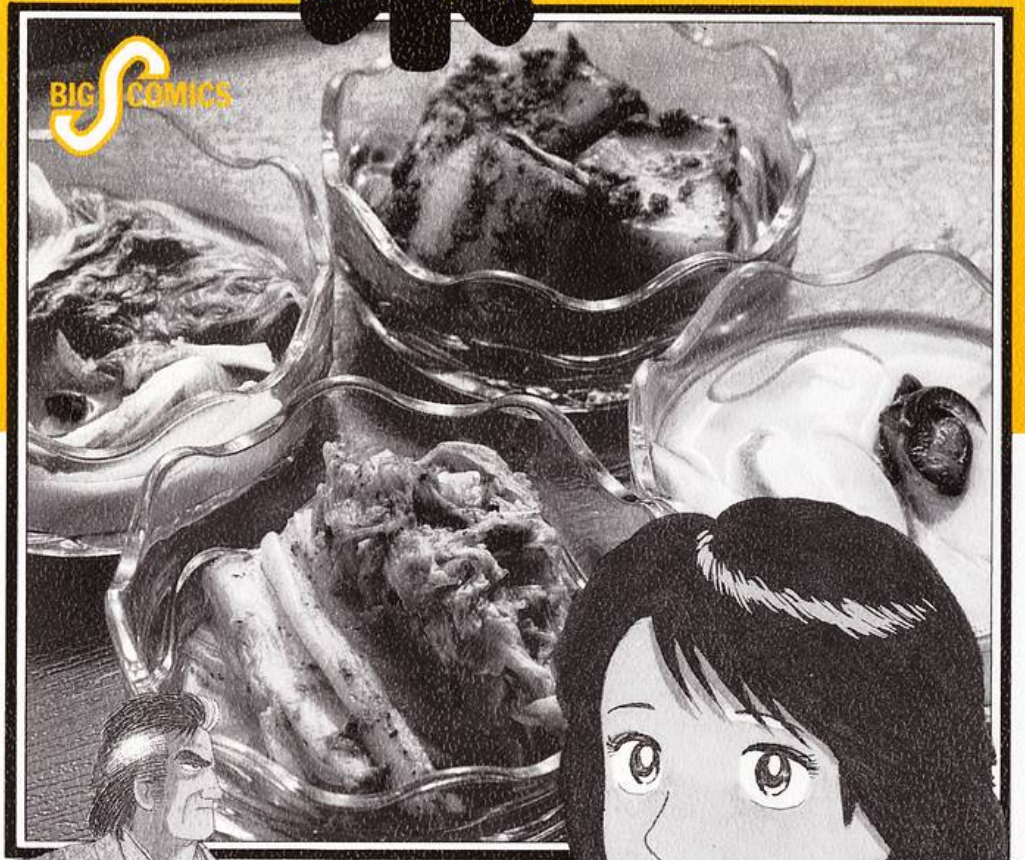
■ ビッグコミックス

美味しんぼ……Ⅰ～35集発売中

■スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／■

めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）……全15巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全9巻
赤い鳩〈アビル〉（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全6巻
OFFERED（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全4巻
あさってDANCE（山本直樹）……全7巻
はっぱ64（山本直樹）……全3巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）……全6巻
MONEY MOON（石坂啓）……全3巻
スローニン（吉田聡）……全4巻
両国花錦闘士（岡野玲子）……全4巻
ガルルル（むつ利之）……全2巻
ZERO（松本大洋）……全2巻
ハーフな分だけ（星里もちる）……全2巻
りざべーしょんプリーズ（細野不二彦）全2巻
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全1巻
うにばーしてぃBOYS（細野不二彦）全1巻
かぼちゃ白書（六田登・タモツ）……全1巻
座・スターダスト（国友やすゆき）…全1巻
美紅・舞子（西村しのぶ）……全1巻
胡桃（佐藤宏之）……全1巻
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）……全29巻
ツルモク独身寮（窪之内英策）……全11巻
赤い弾丸（安部譲二・岸山直）……全3巻
原色恋愛図鑑（松苗あけみ）……全1巻

美味(おい)しんぼ



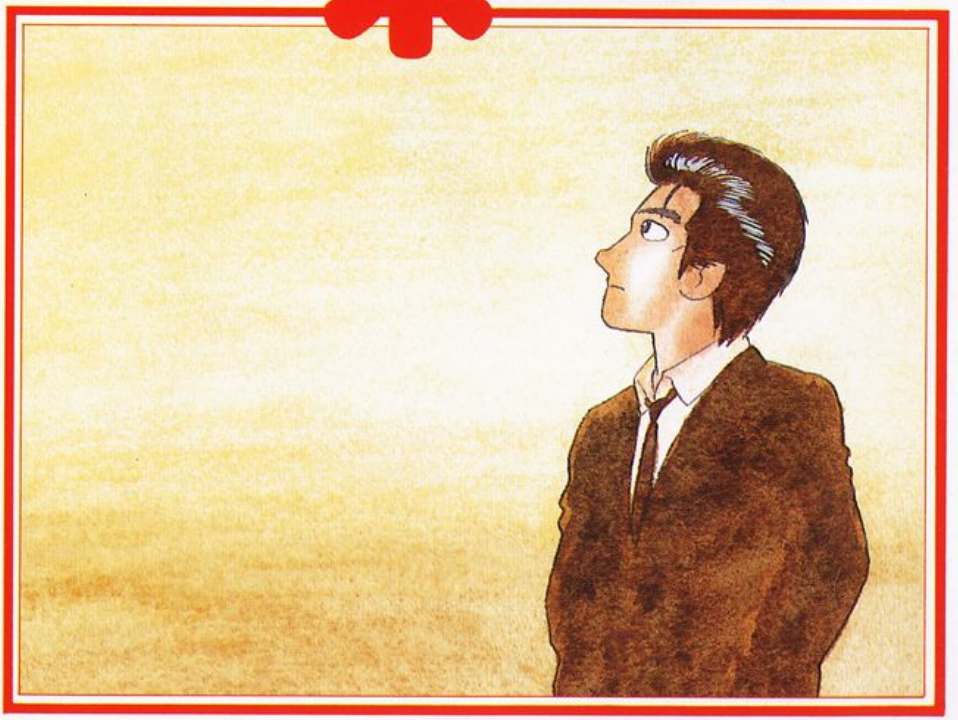
10 キムチの精神(こころ)

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

10 キムチの精神（こころ）

各種キムチを中心とした韓国家庭料理
調理・鳳仙花（麻布十番）

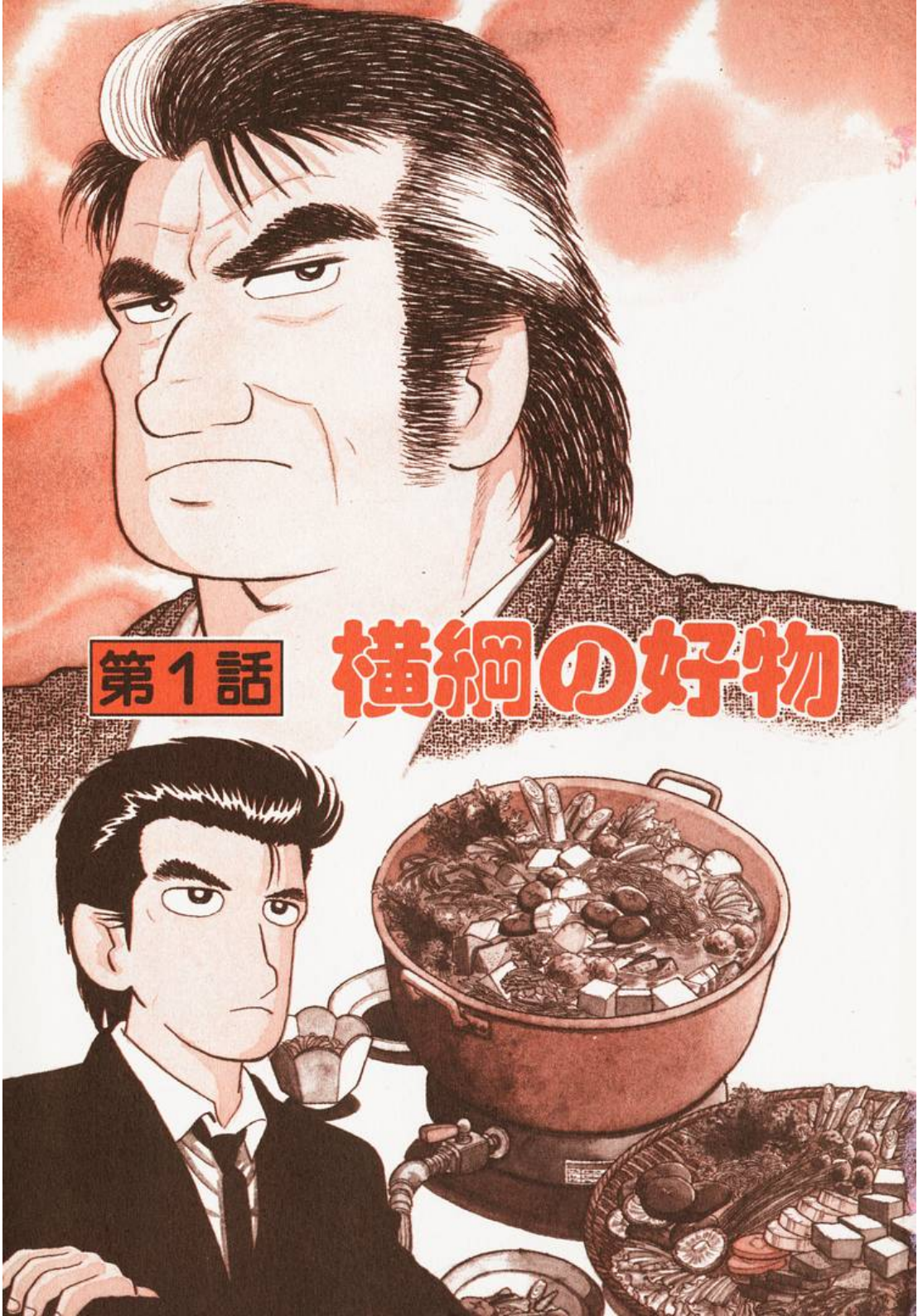
美味（おい）しんぼ



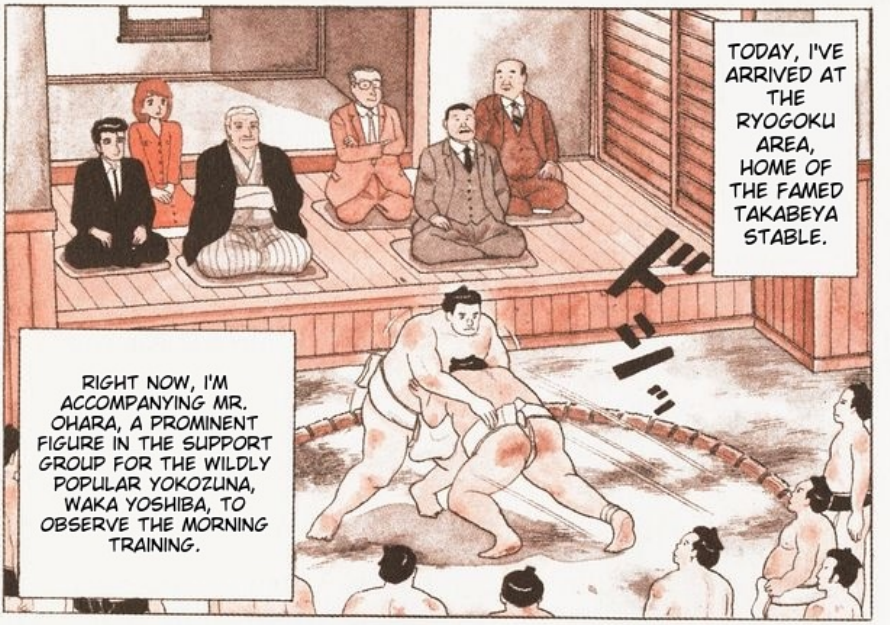
美味しんぼ

10 キムチの精神

EPISODE 1: THE YOKOZUNA'S FAVORITE DISH..... 3


第1話
横綱の好物

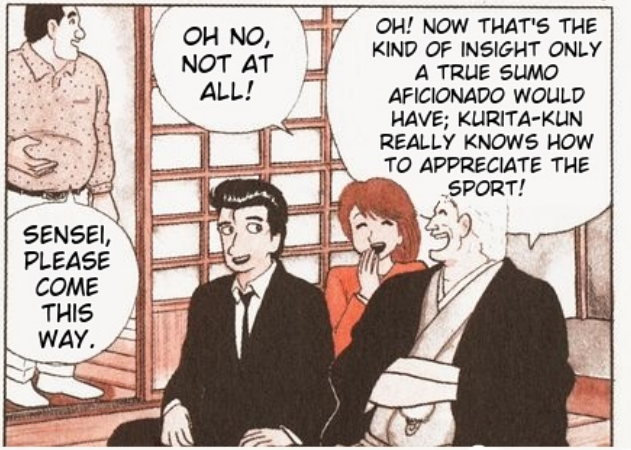
ズシーン
ドスーン
島高部屋
ガッ
ハァ
ハァ
フウ
バッ
ドシーン


TODAY, I'VE ARRIVED AT THE RYOGOKU AREA, HOME OF THE FAMED TAKABEYA STABLE.
RIGHT NOW, I'M ACCOMPANYING MR. OHARA, A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE WILDLY POPULAR YOKOZUNA, WAKA YOSHIBA, TO OBSERVE THE MORNING TRAINING.
ドン!

IT SEEMS EVEN MORE THRILLING AND ENTERTAINING THAN THE ACTUAL MATCHES AT THE MAIN EVENT!
I'M COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY THE SHEER INTENSITY!

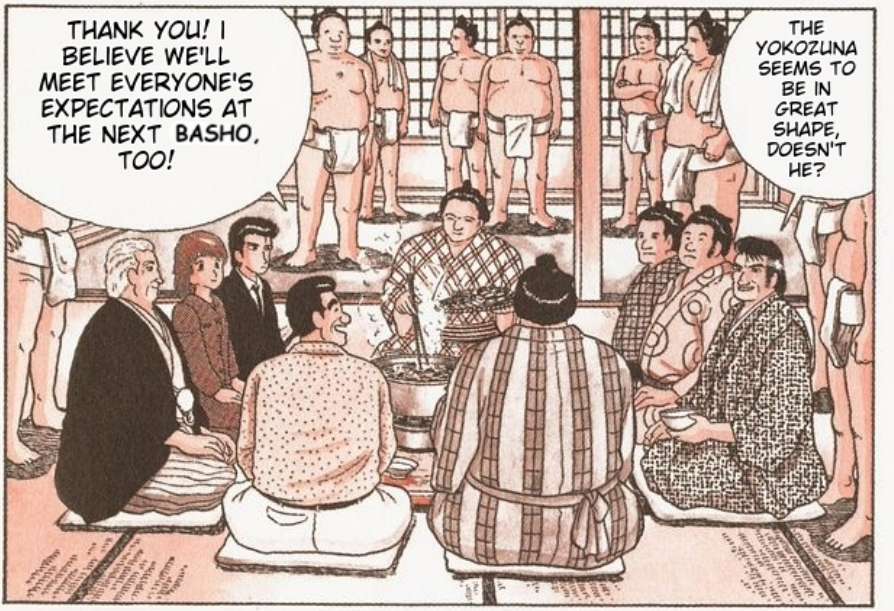
SO, HOW'S THE MORNING PRACTICE GOING?

3


OH NO, NOT AT ALL!
OH! NOW THAT'S THE KIND OF INSIGHT ONLY A TRUE SUMO AFICIONADO WOULD HAVE; KURITA-KUN REALLY KNOWS HOW TO APPRECIATE THE SPORT!
SENSEI, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.

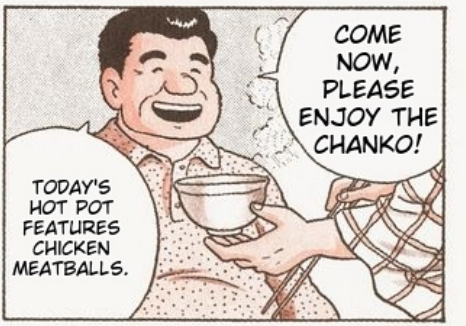
……
WELL, HERE YOU GO!
INDEED...
IT'S KAIBARA YUZAN!!!
UGH!
OH DEAR, I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY MORE TROUBLES BREWING...

DELICIOUS!


THANK YOU! I BELIEVE WE'LL MEET EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS AT THE NEXT BASHO, TOO!
THE YOKOZUNA SEEMS TO BE IN GREAT SHAPE, DOESN'T HE?

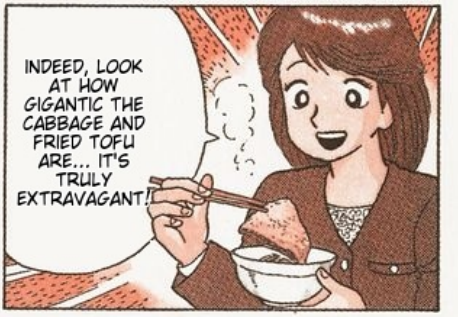
5

THIS BOLD VIBE IS JUST INDESCRIBABLE, ISN'T IT?
IT LOOKS SO DELICIOUS; I CAN'T WAIT TO DIG IN!


COME NOW, PLEASE ENJOY THE CHANKO!
TODAY'S HOT POT FEATURES CHICKEN MEATBALLS.

EXCUSE ME, BUT WE'VE RECEIVED SOME EXQUISITE FREE-RANGE CHICKEN FROM THE SUPPORT GROUP...
HMM... I THINK A MIX OF MINCED CHICKEN WITH GINGER, SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS, AND GARLIC CHIVES FORMED INTO DUMPLINGS WOULD BE DELIGHTFUL. A SPLASH OF SAKE AND A HINT OF MISO WILL ADD A SECRET TOUCH... IT'S BOUND TO HAVE A FANTASTIC FLAVOR.

I HAVE TO MAKE A CALL...


INDEED, LOOK AT HOW GIGANTIC THE CABBAGE AND FRIED TOFU ARE... IT'S TRULY EXTRAVAGANT!

DON'T JUST SAY ANYTHING, TELL ME WHAT YOU REALLY WANT!
WELL, ANYTHING IS JUST FINE.

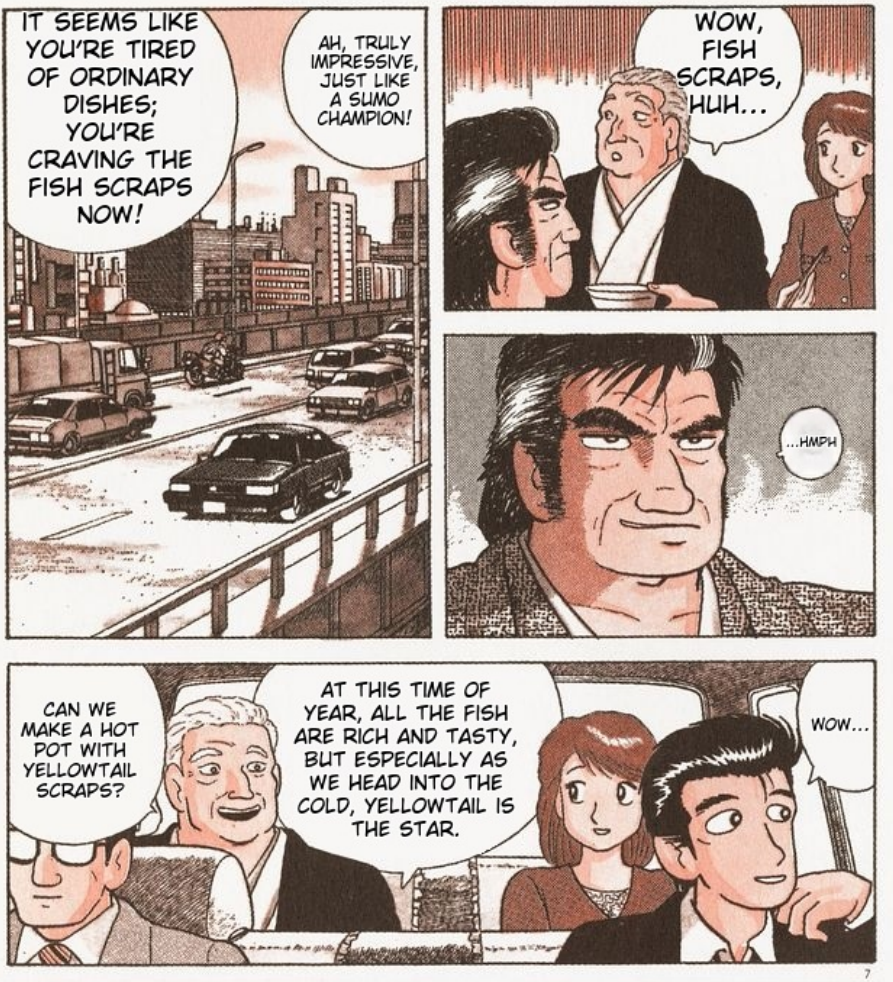
BY THE WAY, YOKOZUNA, ABOUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT MEETING HOSTED BY THE SUPPORT GROUP THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
I'M THE ORGANIZER, BUT WHAT KIND OF DISH SHOULD WE PREPARE?

6

GIVEN THE SEASON, SHOULD WE GO FOR THE FISH HEAD?
YES, THE FISH HEAD IS ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!
OH? ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THE HEAD OF THE FISH?

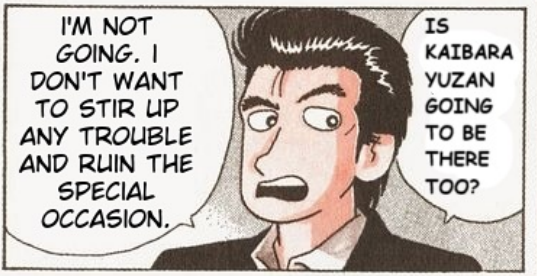
DEFINITELY, NOTHING BEATS A HEARTY HOT POT.
WELL,...

DELICIOUS!


IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TIRED OF ORDINARY DISHES; YOU'RE CRAVING THE FISH SCRAPS NOW!
AH, TRULY IMPRESSIVE, JUST LIKE A SUMO CHAMPION!
WOW, FISH SCRAPS, HUH...
...HMPH
CAN WE MAKE A HOT POT WITH YELLOWTAIL SCRAPS?
AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, ALL THE FISH ARE RICH AND TASTY, BUT ESPECIALLY AS WE HEAD INTO THE COLD, YELLOWTAIL IS THE STAR.
WOW...
7
ALRIGHT, LET'S SETTLE ON A HOT POT WITH YELLOWTAIL SCRAPS!
OH WOW, JUST HEARING THAT MAKES MY MOUTH WATER!
THE DAIKON SHOULD BE LEFT TO SOAK IN THE POT UNTIL THE VERY END, THAT WAY IT ABSORBS ALL THE FLAVORS AND BECOMES TRULY DELICIOUS.
IT'S SO GOOD! WE'LL MAKE A BROTH WITH KELP, FILL THE POT GENEROUSLY, AND ENJOY IT WITH DAIKON, LONG GREEN ONIONS, AND SHUNGIKU.

I CAN'T WAIT!
OOHARA-SAN IS INVITING US TO THE DINNER, TONIGHT!

SONY


I'M NOT GOING. I DON'T WANT TO STIR UP ANY TROUBLE AND RUIN THE SPECIAL OCCASION.
IS KAIBARA YUZAN GOING TO BE THERE TOO?

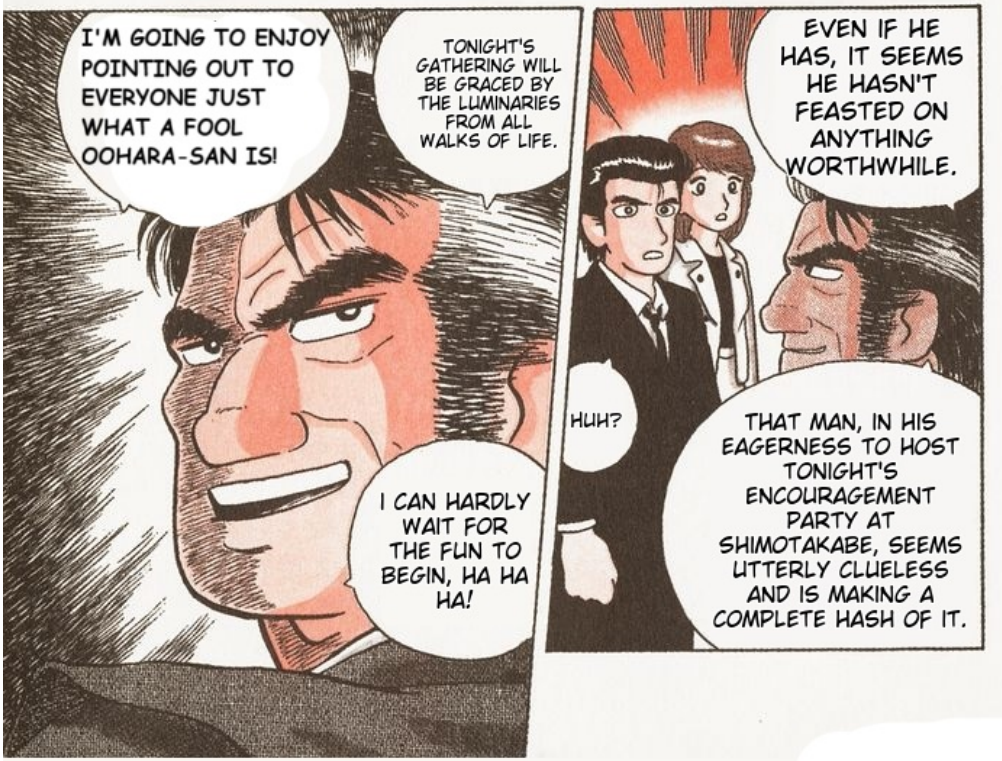
古美術高野屋

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S SUCH A SHAME...

8

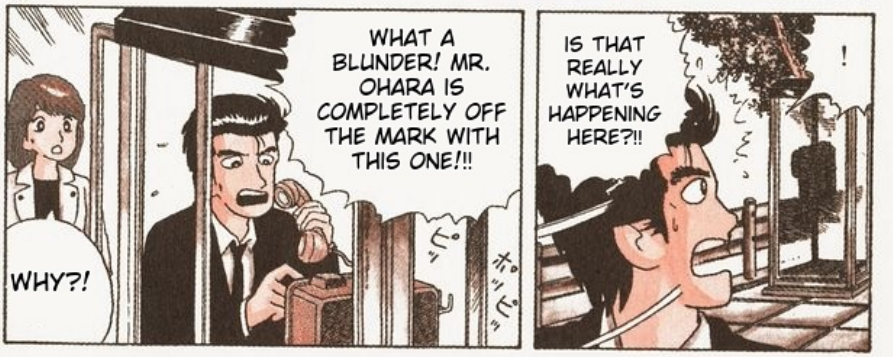
DELICIOUS!

HOLD ON, SHIRO...
HUH?
HAS YOUR ESTEEMED OOHARA EVER VENTURED TO FUKUOKA IN THIS CHILLY SEASON?
HMM?


I'M GOING TO ENJOY POINTING OUT TO EVERYONE JUST WHAT A FOOL OOHARA-SAN IS!
TONIGHT'S GATHERING WILL BE GRACED BY THE LUMINARIES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE FUN TO BEGIN, HA HA HA!
EVEN IF HE HAS, IT SEEMS HE HASN'T FEASTED ON ANYTHING WORTHWHILE.
HUH?
THAT MAN, IN HIS EAGERNESS TO HOST TONIGHT'S ENCOURAGEMENT PARTY AT SHIMOTAKABE, SEEMS UTTERLY CLUELESS AND IS MAKING A COMPLETE HASH OF IT.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT COULD HE MEAN BY THAT?
……?
WELL, IT WAS AT THE REQUEST OF THE YOKOZUNA... AT THAT MOMENT.
WHILE YOU WERE MAKING A PHONE CALL, THE SEKITORI SAID THAT FISH SCRAP HOT POT WAS BEST THIS TIME OF YEAR.
IT SEEMS THAT MR. OOHARA HAS DECIDED TO SERVE A HOT POT MADE WITH YELLOWTAIL SCRAPS TONIGHT, BUT WHAT LED HIM TO CHOOSE FISH SCRAPS?

10


WHAT A BLUNDER! MR. OHARA IS COMPLETELY OFF THE MARK WITH THIS ONE!!
WHY?!
IS THAT REALLY WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!!
!

DELICIOUS!

FLYING TO FUKUOKA!
I'M GOING TOO!
HEADING OUT? TONIGHT, STRAIGHT TO THE PEP RALLY?!
THIS IS YAMAOKA FROM THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH MR. OOHARA!
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?
IT'S HALF PAST TWELVE... IF I HURRY, I MIGHT JUST MAKE IT IN TIME.
ガチャ!
WAIT, BUT YOU...!
チャ
YAMAOKA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE THE PLANE FARE?!
TAX

ANA

HEY THERE, YAMAOKA-SAN!
OH, ABE-SAN.
福岡空港
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP US OUT?
WOW, WHAT A PICKLE! THE MARKET HAS LONG SINCE CLOSED.
SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN REQUEST.
THIS IS ABE-SAN FROM THE FRESH SEAFOOD WHOLESALE.
12
相撲茶屋
白田山
白田山
白田山
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF IT'LL GO SMOOTHLY...
WELL, LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT.

DELICIOUS!

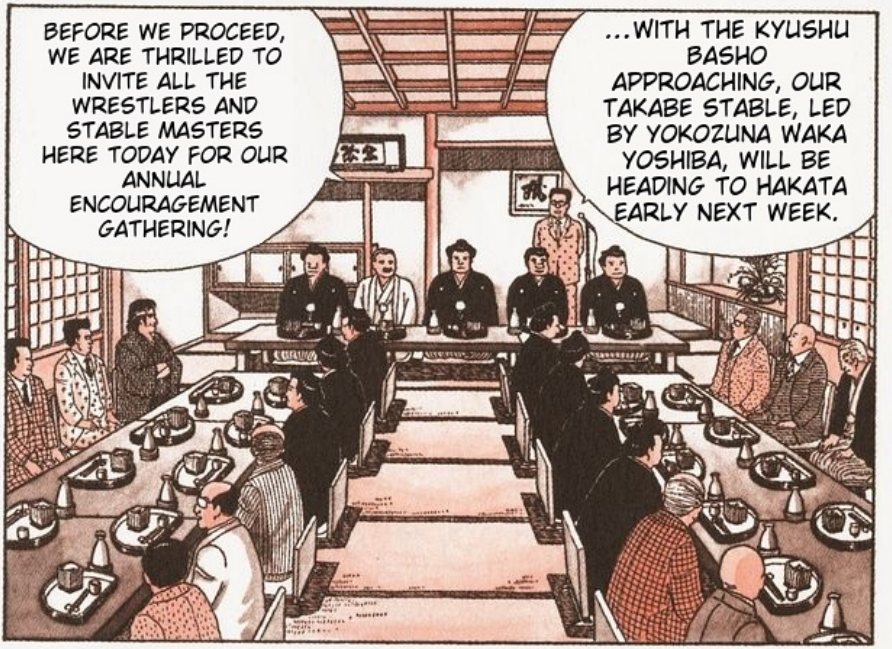
PRETTY PLEASE!
WE DO HAVE SOME IN THE STORAGE, BUT THIS MORNING, I GOT A NICE, THICK FISH FROM OTSUKA-SAN THAT'S JUST PERFECT!
WHAT? ARE YOU REALLY ASKING ME TO RETURN THE FISH I JUST BOUGHT THIS MORNING?
ALRIGHT THEN, TAKE IT WITH YOU!!
WELL, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO. I CAN'T LET YOU GO BACK EMPTY-HANDED.
13
WHAT'S THAT?
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, COULD I ASK FOR ONE MORE THING...
THANK YOU SO MUCH, YOU'VE REALLY SAVED US!

Y-YES, IT'S A CALL FROM MR. YAMAOKA OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER, SAYING WE NEED TO CANCEL IT...

WHAT?! CANCEL THE PREPARATION FOR THE DELICIOUS YELLOWTAIL HOT POT?! UNTHINKABLE!!
料亭 菜天

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON...?!
THAT YAMAOKA...

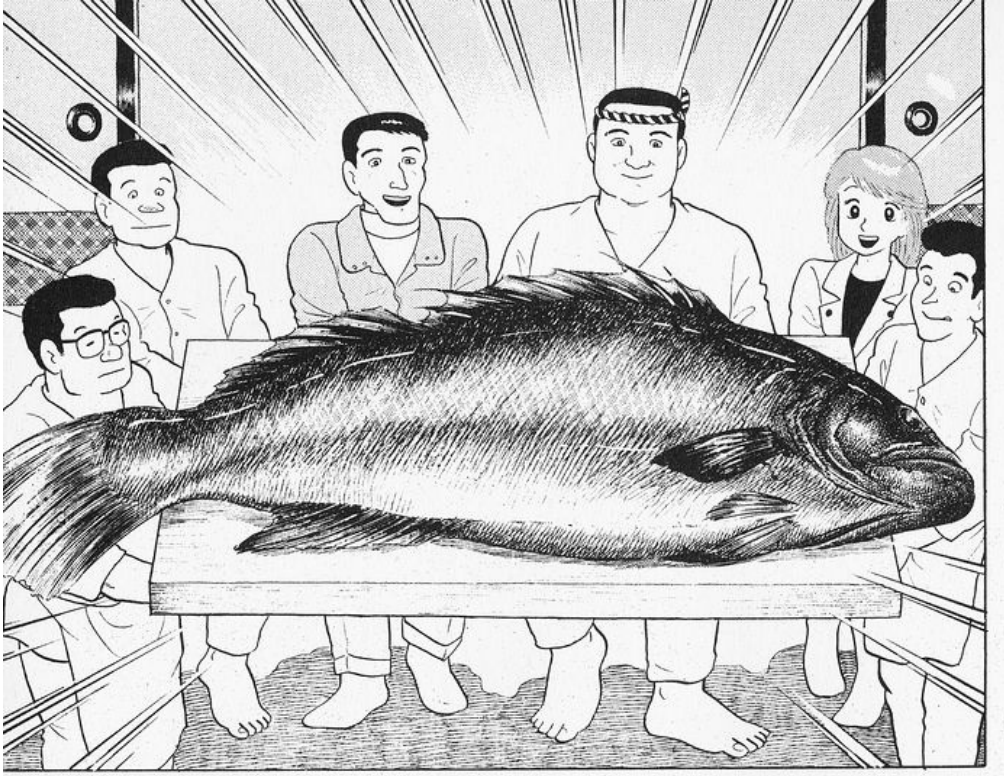
14


BEFORE WE PROCEED, WE ARE THRILLED TO INVITE ALL THE WRESTLERS AND STABLE MASTERS HERE TODAY FOR OUR ANNUAL ENCOURAGEMENT GATHERING!
...WITH THE KYUSHU BASHO APPROACHING, OUR TAKABE STABLE, LED BY YOKOZUNA WAKA YOSHIBA, WILL BE HEADING TO HAKATA EARLY NEXT WEEK.

DELICIOUS!

.....
BY THE WAY, TODAY'S CULINARY ARRANGEMENTS WERE ENTRUSTED TO MR. OHARA OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER.
WORD HAS IT, AN EXTRAORDINARY DISH IS ON THE WAY!
DARN IT... WHERE ON EARTH IS THAT FOOL?!?
AT THIS RATE, TONIGHT'S ENCOURAGEMENT GATHERING WILL BE A DISASTER!!
WHERE'S YAMAOKA? IS HE STILL NOT HERE?!
AH, I STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET, I APOLOGIZE!
15
OUR YOKOZUNA REQUESTED A YELLOWTAIL HOTPOT!
SINCE IT'S ARRANGED BY MR. OOHARA, IT MUST BE QUITE THE FEAST!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THAT...!
W-WELL... YOU SEE...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YELLOWTAIL?
IT SEEMS THE YOKOZUNA IS UNHAPPY
OH... WHAT A LETDOWN, I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
W-WHAT?! THE HOT POT IS REALLY CANCELED?!
16
PRESENTING, FRESH ARA STRAIGHT FROM HAKATA!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
WHY DID YOU CANCEL THE YELLOWTAIL HOT POT?!!!
Y-YAMAOKA -!!



WHOA—IT'S ENORMOUS!!
WHAT KIND OF FISH IS THIS?!

17

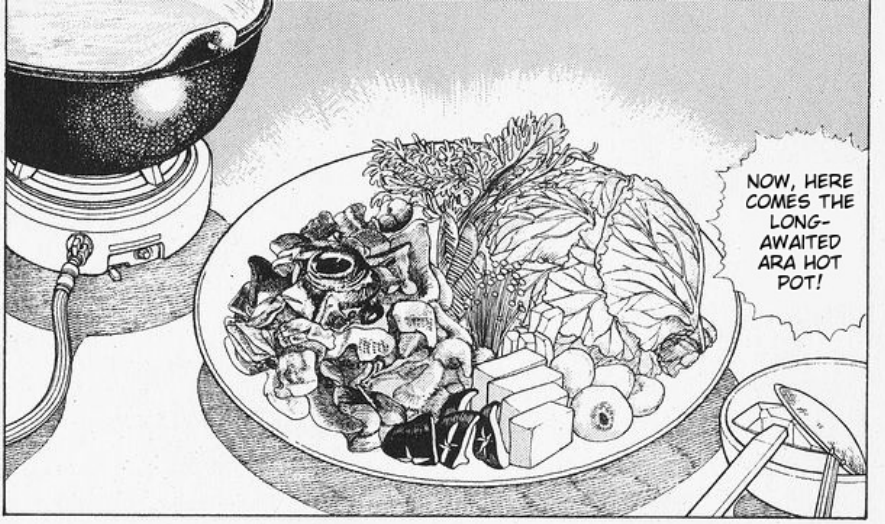
ISN'T THAT JUST THE GUTS OF A FISH OR SOMETHING FOR A HOT POT?
W-WHAT...? THERE'S A FISH CALLED ARA?

IT'S A MEMBER OF THE GROUPER FAMILY, AND IN HAKATA THEY SAY THIS ARA HOT POT IS EVEN TASTIER THAN PUFFERFISH STEW!
THIS IS A FISH CALLED ARA.

QUITE THE SPECTACLE, INDEED... HA HA HA!
AH, YES... HA HA HA HA HA...
CHEERS TO YOU!
OOHARA, YOU RASCAL! TO HAVE SNAGGED SUCH AN AMAZING CATCH AND YET CALLED OFF THE YELLOWTAIL HOT POT— WHAT A TEASE!
WHO WILL SHOWCASE THE INCREDIBLE SKILL OF BREAKING DOWN A FISH THAT'S NORMALLY TACKLED WITH AN AXE OR SAW, USING JUST A SINGLE SMALL KNIFE.
WELL THEN, AS WE STEP INTO THE GARDEN, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO OTSUKA FROM THE FAMOUS HAKATA SUMO CHAYA 'SHIRATAYAMA,'
18
ニヂャ
ニヂャ
ニヂャ

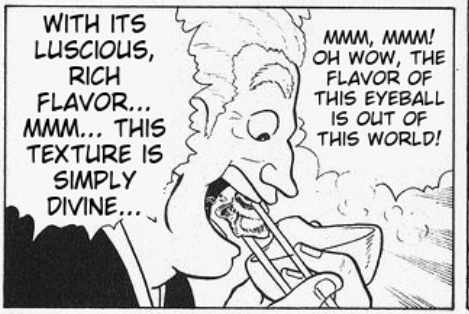
DELICIOUS!

THERE'S A TRICK TO IT, YOU SEE.
BY FEELING FOR THE JOINTS BETWEEN THE BONES AND MAKING THE CUT, YOU CAN DISASSEMBLE IT, EVEN WITH A KNIFE.
TO DO THIS WITH SUCH A SMALL FILLET KNIFE!
AH, TRULY MAGNIFICENT!
19
BUT THAT'S SOME SKILLED CRAFTSMANSHIP.
IMPRESSIVE, INDEED!!


NOW, HERE COMES THE LONG-AWAITED ARA HOT POT!

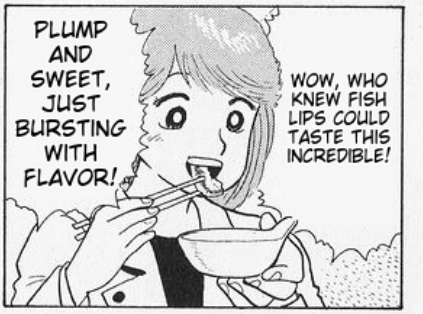
THE MORE GROTESQUE IT LOOKS, THE TASTIER IT IS -IT'S A RULE OF THUMB!

YIKES, THAT IS A BIT ON THE GROTESQUE SIDE, HUH?
LOOK, THE ABSOLUTE BEST PARTS ARE THESE EYEBALLS AND LIPS!


WITH ITS LUSCIOUS, RICH FLAVOR... MMM... THIS TEXTURE IS SIMPLY DIVINE...
MMM, MMM! OH WOW, THE FLAVOR OF THIS EYEBALL IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

20

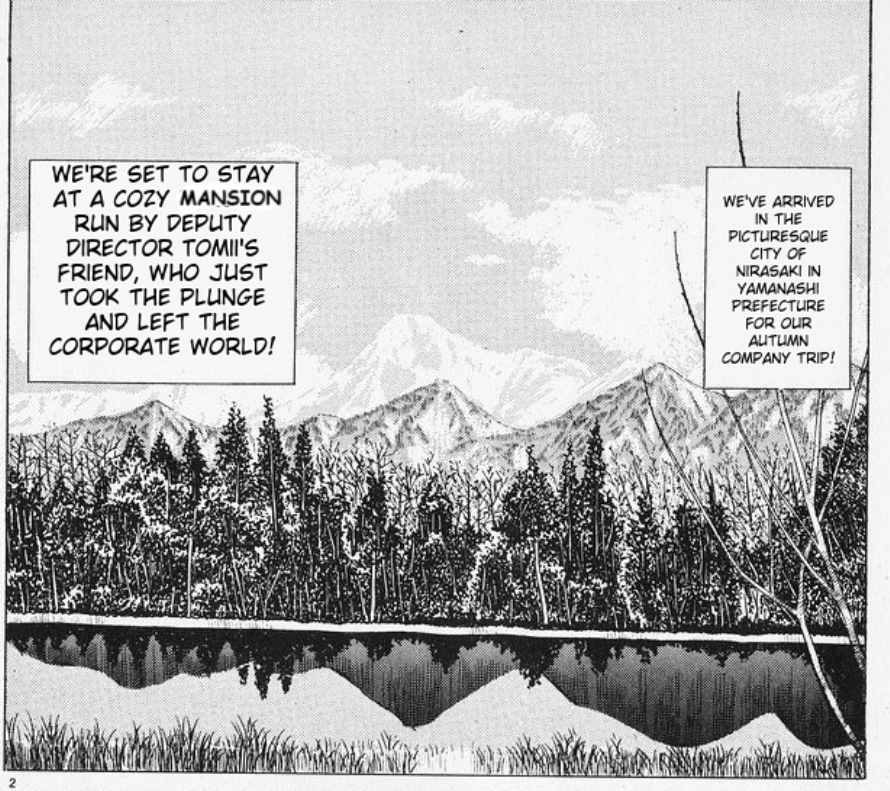
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR THIS, YAMAOKA-KUN.
NO WAY, I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS A FISH CALLED 'ARA,' I ALMOST MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF!

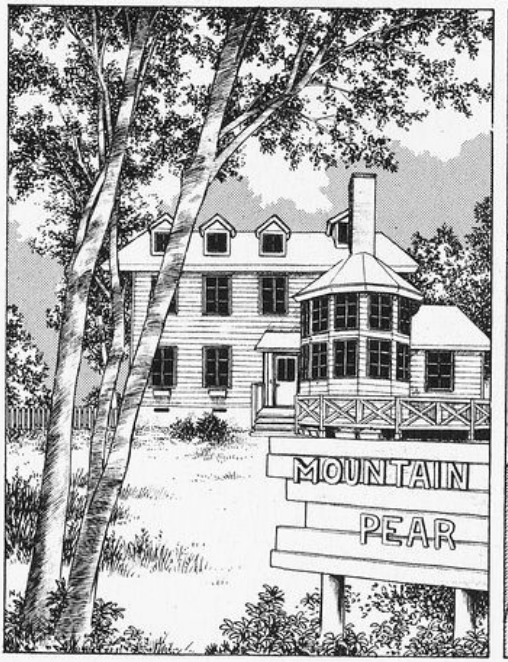

PLUMP AND SWEET, JUST BURSTING WITH FLAVOR!
WOW, WHO KNEW FISH LIPS COULD TASTE THIS INCREDIBLE!

REALLY?
IT'S REALLY THANKS TO KAIBARA YUZAN!
HMM...
NO WAY!
I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT HE WAS THROWING US A LIFELINE EARLIER TODAY WHEN HE CONFRONTED US...
パチパチパチパチパチパチ
OOHARA-SAN, THE WRESTLERS HAVE REALLY GAINED STRENGTH BECAUSE OF YOU!
21
THANKS A MILLION!
I'M GOING TO WIN THE KYUSHU TOURNAMENT FOR SURE!

THIS IS YOUR TRAVEL MONEY.
I'VE ALREADY PAID OTSUKA FOR THE EXPENSES.
AH, THANK YOU.
WHAT?!
I'M THE ONE THAT PAID FOR THE FLIGHT!!!!
22
GET BACK HERE, YOU THIEF!!!
HEY, YAMAOKA!!

第2話
ペンションの名物


WE'RE SET TO STAY AT A COZY MANSION RUN BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOMII'S FRIEND, WHO JUST TOOK THE PLUNGE AND LEFT THE CORPORATE WORLD!
WE'VE ARRIVED IN THE PICTURESQUE CITY OF NIRASAKI IN YAMANASHI PREFECTURE FOR OUR AUTUMN COMPANY TRIP!
2

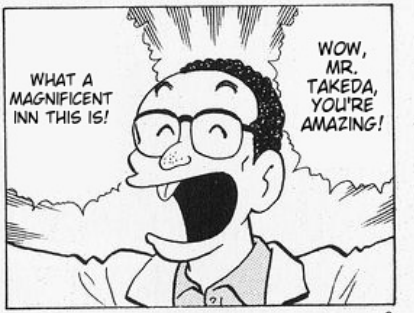

MOUNTAIN
PEAR

"YAWN"
...

DELICIOUS!

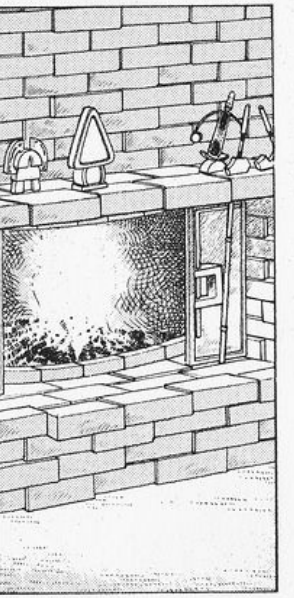
WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU HERE!
LOOKING FORWARD TO STAYING HERE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND HOSPITALITY!

THANK YOU SO MUCH...
OH MY... JUST TOO KIND...


WHAT A MAGNIFICENT INN THIS IS!
WOW, MR. TAKEDA, YOU'RE AMAZING!

3

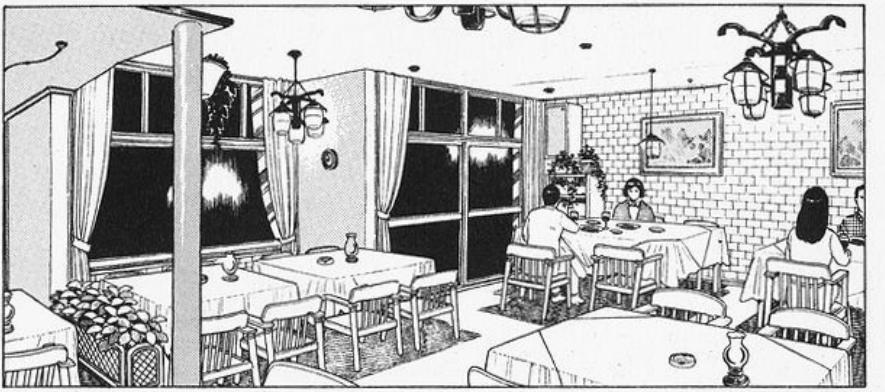
OH, SO THE BUSINESS ISN'T DOING WELL...

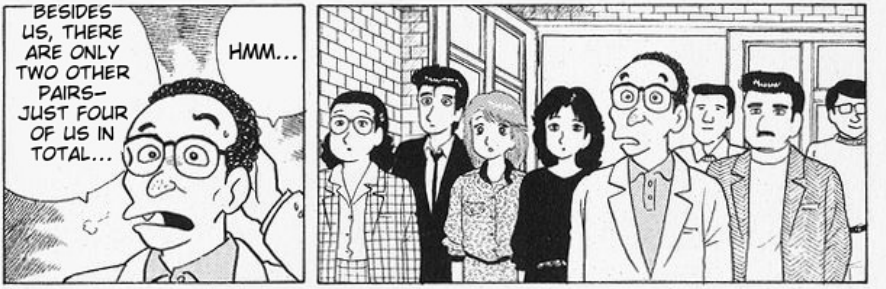


OH, I SEE.
WE'VE DONE LOTS OF RESEARCH AND TRIED TO APPEAL TO THE YOUNGER CROWD...
I JUST CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON WHY THAT IS.
YEAH, RUNNING AN INN ISN'T ANY EASIER THAN WORKING IN THE CORPORATE WORLD...
IS MR. TAKEDA GOING TO COOK?
GOT IT.
YOU SHOULD GET STARTED ON THAT COOKING SOON.
MOUNTAIN PEAR
4
WELL THEN, SEE YOU AT DINNER.
TOMII-SAN, YOU'RE BEING MUCH TOO GENEROUS TO ME!
THAT SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL.
THIS IS GOING TO BE EXCITING! TAKEDA'S CULINARY SKILLS HAVE ALWAYS SURPASSED THE AVERAGE PROFESSIONAL!

DELICIOUS!

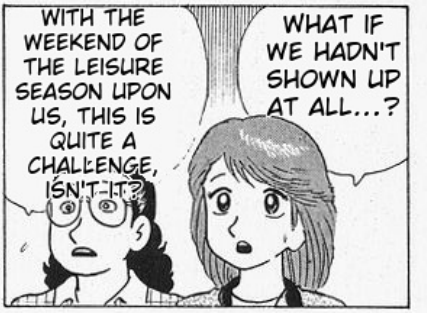
YUZURU... IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
MOM, JUST RELAX, PLEASE. IT'S ALL GOOD; WE'VE GOT THINGS COVERED!
MOUNTAIN PEARL
I'D HOPED TO HELP MY SON OUT WITH THE FOOD...
HOW ARE YOU, TOMII-KUN? I'VE MISSED YOU.
MRS. TAKEDA! IT'S BEEN AWHILE!
5
.....
UH, OH...
IN A PLACE THIS FANCY, IT SEEMS THERE'S NO ROOM FOR AN OLD MOUNTAIN WOMAN LIKE ME.




BESIDES US, THERE ARE ONLY TWO OTHER PAIRS— JUST FOUR OF US IN TOTAL...
HMM...

6

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE, MY HUSBAND HAS WORKED HARD ON THE FOOD.
MOUNTAIN PEAR


WITH THE WEEKEND OF THE LEISURE SEASON UPON US, THIS IS QUITE A CHALLENGE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT IF WE HADN'T SHOWN UP AT ALL...?

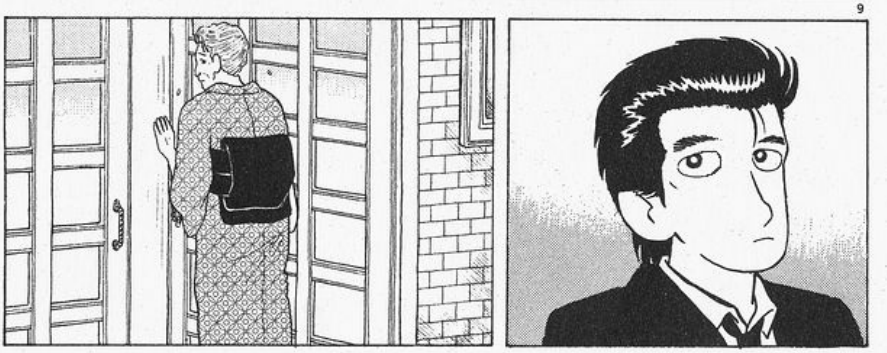
DELICIOUS!

WOW, THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
...
IT'S A SALAD OF RED CLAMS AND SURF CLAMS.
CLAMS? BUT WE'RE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!
IT'S TRULY AUTHENTIC!
THIS IS A SOLE MEUNIÈRE.
PEAR
7
YOU'VE GRILLED IT TO PERFECTION!
カチャ
IT HAS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL AROMA.

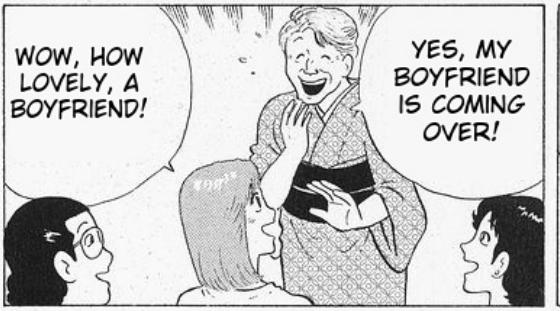
IT FEELS LESS LIKE AN INN AND MORE LIKE I'VE STEPPED INTO A FRENCH RESTAURANT.
HERE WE HAVE DUCK ROAST, DRIZZLED WITH ORANGE SAUCE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, TAKEDA! WHY NOT JUST TURN THIS PLACE INTO A FRENCH RESTAURANT INSTEAD?!
HOW IS IT? I HOPE IT PLEASES YOUR PALATE!
WITH SUCH EXQUISITE DISHES BEING SERVED, THE PRICES ARE PRACTICALLY A STEAL!
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
OH, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY...
8
I HAPPEN TO HAVE A FRIEND WHO'S THE EDITOR OF A TRAVEL MAGAZINE, SO I'LL ASK THEM TO FEATURE THIS INN!
LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL SPREAD THE WORD FAR AND WIDE!
IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT THIS PLACE ISN'T BUSTLING WITH CUSTOMERS; IT JUST NEEDS BETTER PROMOTION!

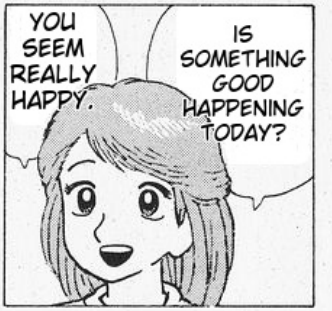
?
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
UGLY.
PLEASE, JUST GET SOME REST.
MOM, THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR YOU TO HELP OUT.
I'D LOVE TO SIP SOME SAKE IN FRONT OF A ROARING FIRE AFTER DINNER.
HOW MANY MAHJONG TABLES CAN WE SET UP?
THINGS ARE TOUGH WITH THE BUSINESS, SO I JUST WANT TO PITCH IN SOMEHOW...
I SEE...

9



WELCOME BACK!

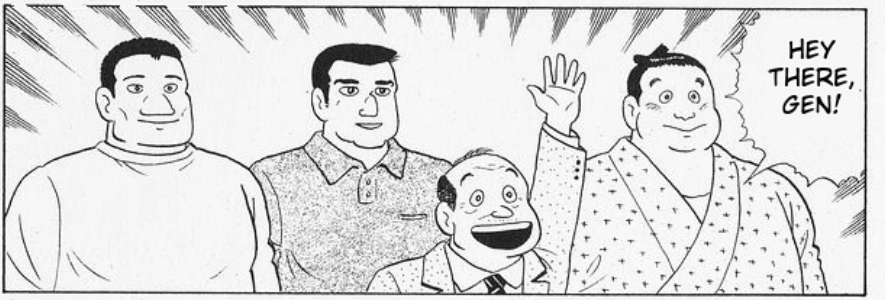

WOW, HOW LOVELY, A BOYFRIEND!
YES, MY BOYFRIEND IS COMING OVER!


YOU SEEM REALLY HAPPY.
IS SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENING TODAY?

10

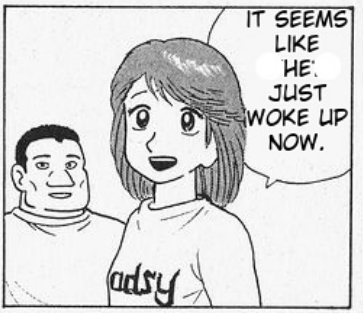
THEY'RE FROM THE UDON SHOP.
OH, THOSE PEOPLE OVER THERE...

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, AND HE APPEARS.
HEY, GONBEI-KUN, OVER HERE!


HEY THERE, GEN!

HOW ARE YOU ALL?
WELL, THIS IS QUITE THE SURPRISE!

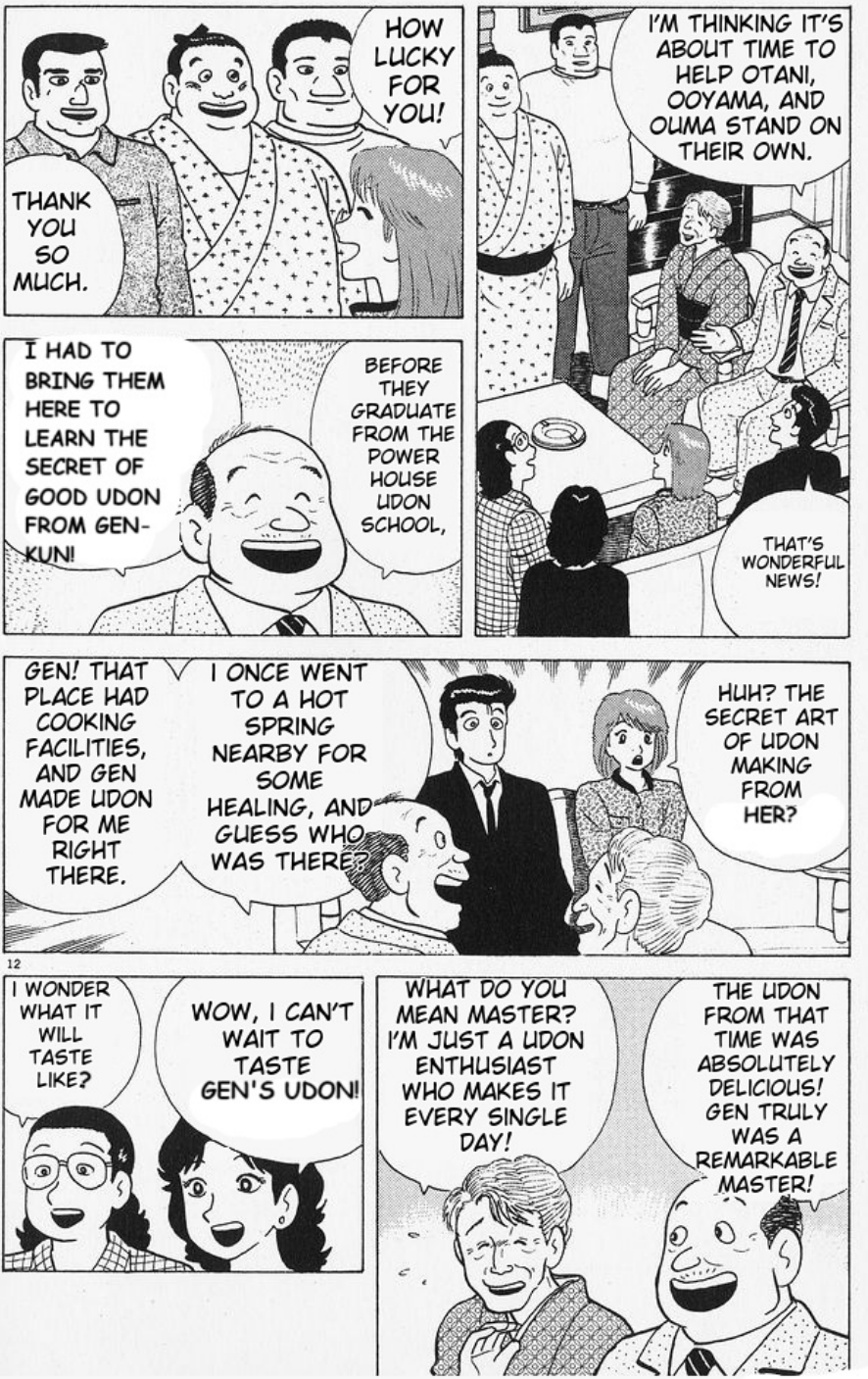
OH, WOW! KURITA-SAN?!
IT'S BEEN AWHILE!


IT SEEMS LIKE HE JUST WOKE UP NOW.

YES, INDEED!
OH, SO YOU ALL KNOW EACH OTHER?
HOW IS MR. YAMAOKA DOING?

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
HUH?

AHH...


HOW LUCKY FOR YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I'M THINKING IT'S ABOUT TIME TO HELP OTANI, OOYAMA, AND OUMA STAND ON THEIR OWN.
I HAD TO BRING THEM HERE TO LEARN THE SECRET OF GOOD UDON FROM GEN-KUN!
BEFORE THEY GRADUATE FROM THE POWER HOUSE UDON SCHOOL,
THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS!
GEN! THAT PLACE HAD COOKING FACILITIES, AND GEN MADE UDON FOR ME RIGHT THERE.
I ONCE WENT TO A HOT SPRING NEARBY FOR SOME HEALING, AND GUESS WHO WAS THERE?
HUH? THE SECRET ART OF UDON MAKING FROM HER?
I WONDER WHAT IT WILL TASTE LIKE?
WOW, I CAN'T WAIT TO TASTE GEN'S UDON!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MASTER? I'M JUST A UDON ENTHUSIAST WHO MAKES IT EVERY SINGLE DAY!
THE UDON FROM THAT TIME WAS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS! GEN TRULY WAS A REMARKABLE MASTER!

DELICIOUS!

NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BLAST!
OH WOW! A NOODLE SHOWDOWN, HUH?
NOW YOU ALL GET READY TO COMPARE FLAVORS WITH THE UDON THAT GEN-SAN MAKES.
YOU'LL SEE THE RESULTS IN NO TIME.
YES?
I'M GOING TO WHIP UP SOME SPECIAL BROTH!
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GET THIS PARTY STARTED?
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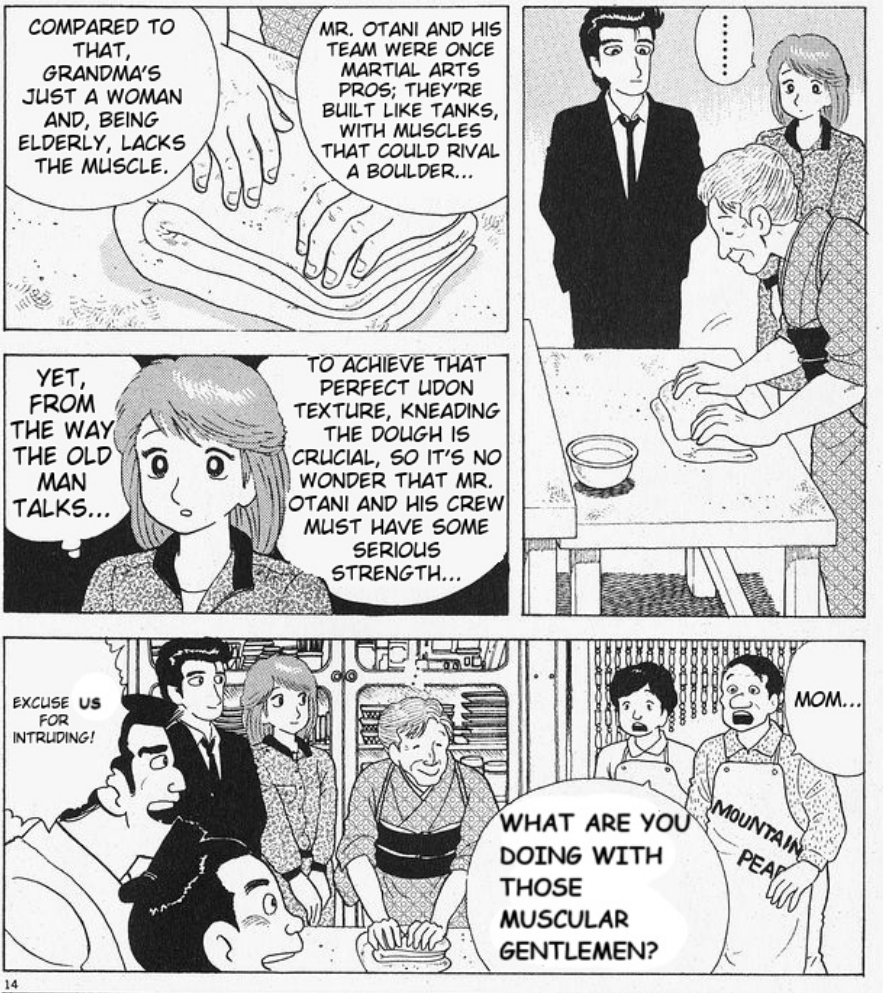
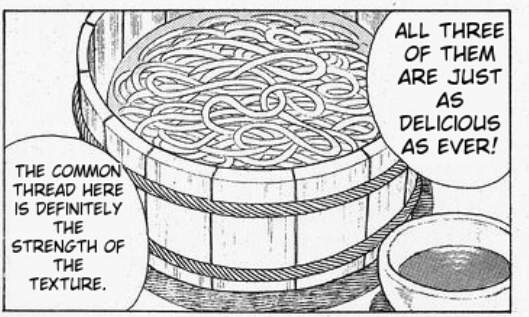
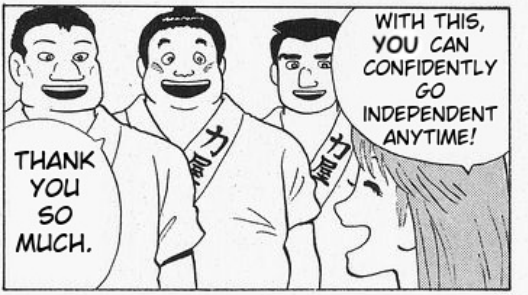

COMPARED TO THAT, GRANDMA'S JUST A WOMAN AND, BEING ELDERLY, LACKS THE MUSCLE.
MR. OTANI AND HIS TEAM WERE ONCE MARTIAL ARTS PROS; THEY'RE BUILT LIKE TANKS, WITH MUSCLES THAT COULD RIVAL A BOULDER...
.....
YET, FROM THE WAY THE OLD MAN TALKS...
TO ACHIEVE THAT PERFECT UDON TEXTURE, KNEADING THE DOUGH IS CRUCIAL, SO IT'S NO WONDER THAT MR. OTANI AND HIS CREW MUST HAVE SOME SERIOUS STRENGTH...
EXCUSE US FOR INTRUDING!
MOM...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE MUSCULAR GENTLEMEN?
MOUNTAIN PEAK
14
PLEASE ENJOY!
TODAY'S LUNCH IS UDON!

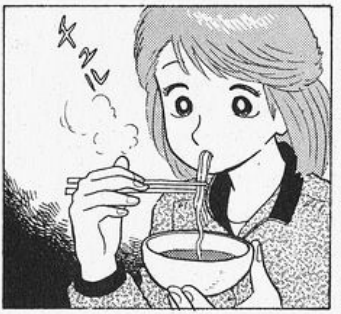
OH MY, THIS IS FANTASTIC! YOU HARDLY EVER GET TO ENJOY UDON WITH THIS MUCH BITE!
THIS DELIGHTFUL CHEWINESS AND THE ROBUST TEXTURE ARE ABSOLUTELY IRRESISTIBLE!

ALRIGHT, IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR YOU TO SAVOR GEN'S UDON!


ALL THREE OF THEM ARE JUST AS DELICIOUS AS EVER!
THE COMMON THREAD HERE IS DEFINITELY THE STRENGTH OF THE TEXTURE.


WITH THIS, YOU CAN CONFIDENTLY GO INDEPENDENT ANYTIME!
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

15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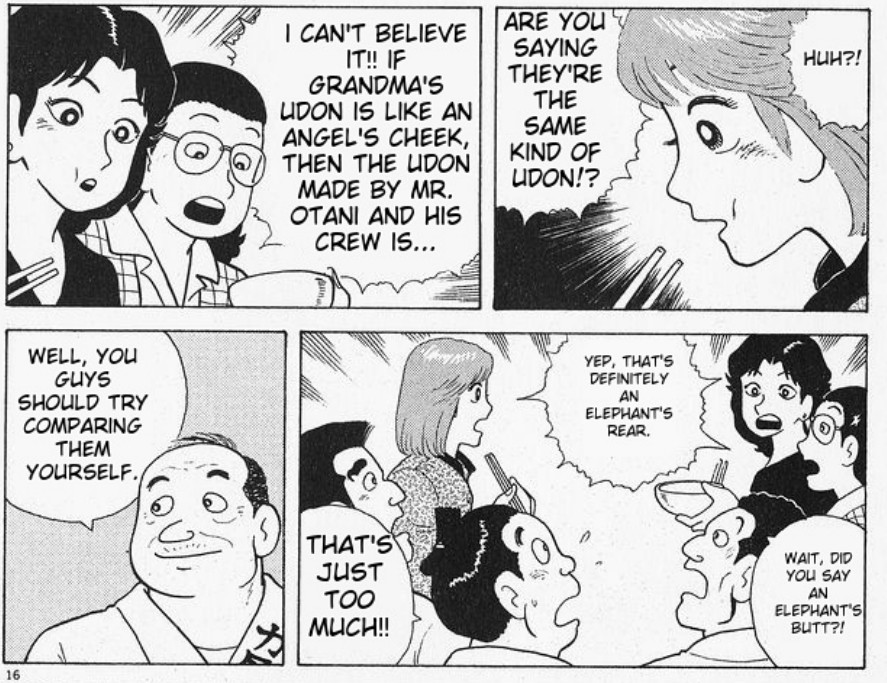
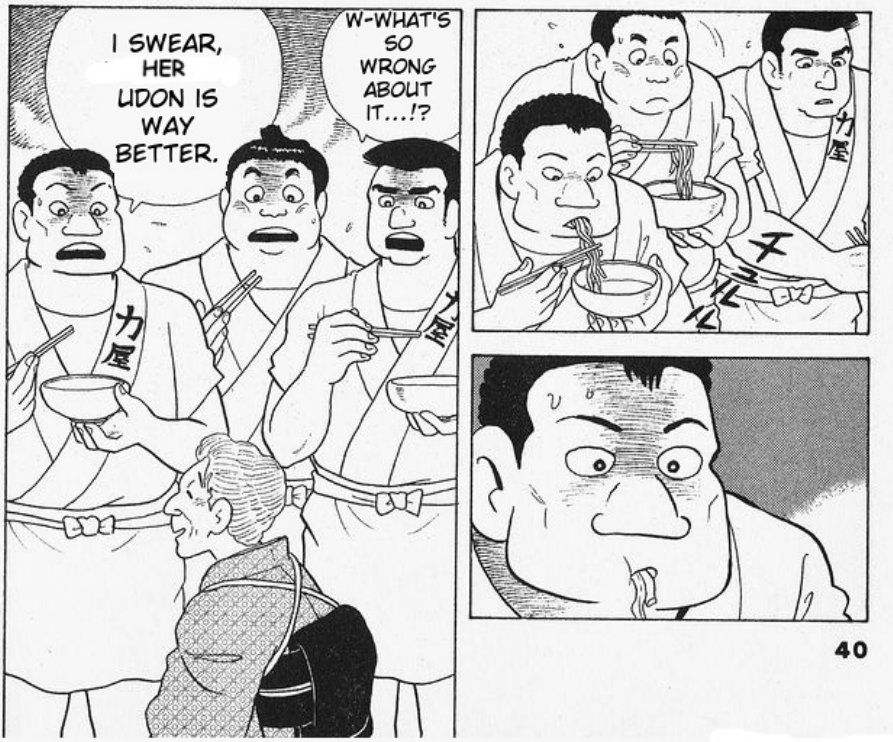
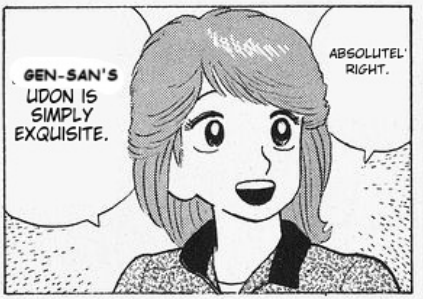
SHE'S NOT AS STRONG AS MR. OTANI AND THE OTHERS, SO I THINK THE UDON'S TEXTURE MIGHT BE A LITTLE WEAK...
THAT DOES MAKE ME A BIT ANXIOUS.


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! IF GRANDMA'S UDON IS LIKE AN ANGEL'S CHEEK, THEN THE UDON MADE BY MR. OTANI AND HIS CREW IS...
ARE YOU SAYING THEY'RE THE SAME KIND OF UDON!?
HUH?!
WELL, YOU GUYS SHOULD TRY COMPARING THEM YOURSELF.
YEP, THAT'S DEFINITELY AN ELEPHANT'S REAR.
THAT'S JUST TOO MUCH!!
WAIT, DID YOU SAY AN ELEPHANT'S BUTT?!

16

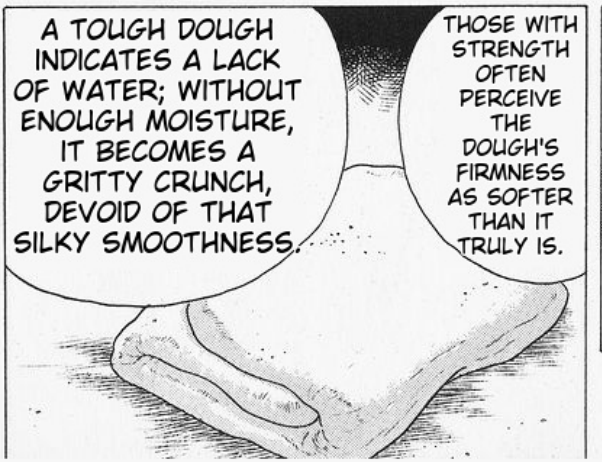

I SWEAR, HER UDON IS WAY BETTER.
W-WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT IT...!?

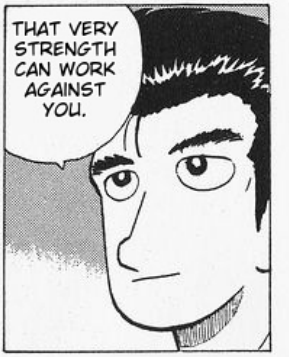
BUT ONCE YOU TAKE A BITE OF GEN-SAN'S CREATION, YOU QUICKLY REALIZE ITS OVER-THE-TOP CHEWINESS AND RIGIDITY—JUST TOUGH UDON, REALLY.
THE UDON MADE BY MR. OTANI AND HIS CREW OFFERS A DELIGHTFUL CHEWINESS THAT TEASES THE PALATE WITH EVERY BITE, BUT...


GEN-SAN'S UDON IS SIMPLY EXQUISITE.
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

ISN'T IT CURIOUS? WE POSSESS FAR MORE STRENGTH THAN HER, AND YET...
力屋

IT FEELS AS IF HER UDON IS UTTERLY DEVOID OF TEXTURE, YET WHEN YOU BITE DOWN, IT MEETS YOUR TEETH WITH A DELIGHTFUL RESISTANCE.
PUSH HARDER, AND THAT RESISTANCE GROWS EVEN STRONGER.
AND WHEN THAT UDON FINALLY SNAPS, IT DOES SO WITH A SATISFYINGLY PLUMP AND CHEWY SENSATION—TRULY A PLEASURE!


A TOUGH DOUGH INDICATES A LACK OF WATER; WITHOUT ENOUGH MOISTURE, IT BECOMES A GRITTY CRUNCH, DEVOID OF THAT SILKY SMOOTHNESS.
THOSE WITH STRENGTH OFTEN PERCEIVE THE DOUGH'S FIRMNESS AS SOFTER THAN IT TRULY IS.

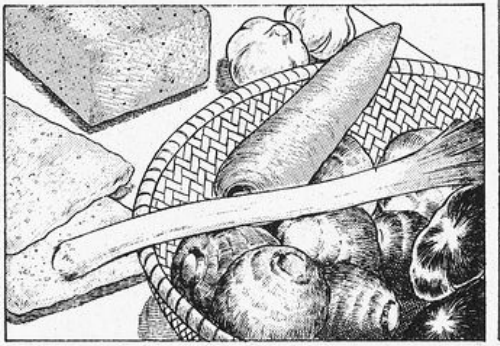

THAT VERY STRENGTH CAN WORK AGAINST YOU.

YOU REALLY DID SOME SOLID LEARNING BEFORE GOING INDEPENDENT.
THERE ARE MASTERS OF UDON MAKING ALL OVER JAPAN, BUT MOST OF THEM ARE GRANDMAS. TO CRAFT DELICIOUS UDON, YOU NEED THE GENTLE TOUCH OF A GRANDMA'S LOVE.
A TINY DIFFERENCE IN WATER CAN CREATE SUCH A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN FLAVOR... WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?
IS THAT SO? WE WERE ONLY THINKING ABOUT KNEADING WITH BRUTE FORCE...
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!
BOSS!
WHAT KIND OF STRATEGY IS THAT...?!
HUH! A STRATEGY TO DRAW GUESTS?!
I HAVE A STRATEGY FOR HOW YOU CAN GET SOME MORE GUESTS...
HOUTOU?
COULD YOU WHIP UP SOME HOUTOU, THE FAMOUS DISH FROM YAMANASHI?
JUST A PIECE OF CAKE!

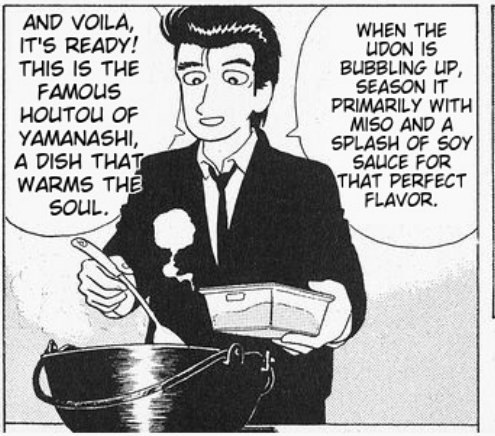
18

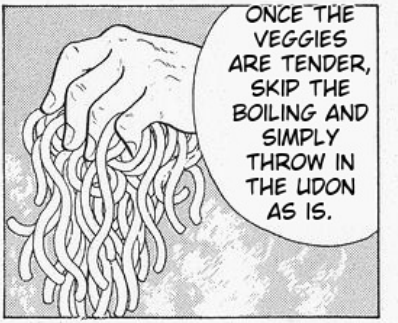
DELICIOUS!

USE BONITO AND KELP TO CREATE A RICH DASHI.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE DASHI; JUST LET IT SIMMER AWAY UNTIL IT'S ALL COZY.



トン トン トン
CHOP UP SOME TARO, CARROTS, PUMPKIN, GREEN ONIONS, KONJAC, FRIED TOFU, SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS, AND GARLIC INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES, AND TOSS THEM INTO A POT.


WHEN THE UDON IS BUBBLING UP, SEASON IT PRIMARILY WITH MISO AND A SPLASH OF SOY SAUCE FOR THAT PERFECT FLAVOR.
AND VOILA, IT'S READY! THIS IS THE FAMOUS HOUTOU OF YAMANASHI, A DISH THAT WARMS THE SOUL.


ONCE THE VEGGIES ARE TENDER, SKIP THE BOILING AND SIMPLY THROW IN THE UDON AS IS.

FOR US, IT'S NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
CAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS REALLY BE THAT TASTY...?

20

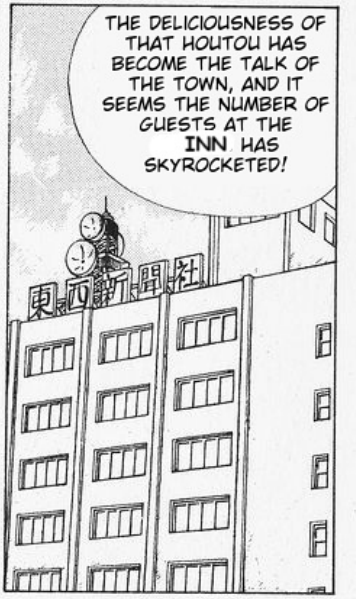
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THAT FRENCH CUISINE FROM LAST NIGHT CAN BE FOUND ALL OVER TOKYO.
THAT'S PRECISELY THE BEAUTY OF IT.

IT'S DELICIOUS AND PACKED WITH NUTRIENTS!!
THIS COUNTRYSIDE CHARM IS SIMPLY INDESCRIBABLE!!

DELICIOUS!

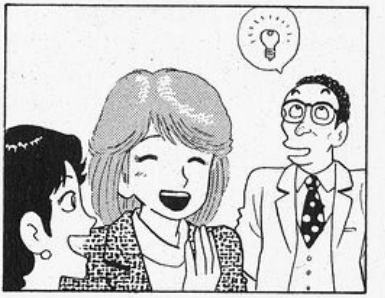
HMM...
ESPECIALLY THE DELICIOUS HOUTOU MADE BY THIS GRANDMOTHER, IT'S SIMPLY IRREPLACEABLE.
HOWEVER, HOUTOU IS DIFFERENT; THERE ARE SO FEW PLACES IN TOKYO THAT SERVE IT WELL.
LET'S SERVE HOUTOU TO OUR GUESTS! I WANT TO PITCH IN FOR THE SAKE OF THIS PLACE TOO!
I KNOW IT SOUNDS OBVIOUS, BUT THE BEST FOOD IN YAMANASHI IS YAMANASHI FOOD, AND THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE FROM OTHER PREFECTURES CRAVE THE MOST.
ISN'T IT A BIT TOO ROMANTIC TO EAT HOUTOU?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS BUILDING?
THIS BUILDING, YOU SEE...
I TOTALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT...
IF ONLY WE HAD GONE WITH A FOLK ART DESIGN INSTEAD...

ALL THANKS TO GRANDMA!
THAT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR!


THE DELICIOUSNESS OF THAT HOUTOU HAS BECOME THE TALK OF THE TOWN, AND IT SEEMS THE NUMBER OF GUESTS AT THE INN HAS SKYROCKETED!
東西新聞社

SHE'S FOUND SOME REAL YOUTHFUL VIGOR SINCE SHE STARTED DATING GONBEI-SAN.
BUT THAT GRANDMA IS PRETTY YOUNG, ISN'T SHE?

SHE IS THE HOUTOU GRANDMA, AFTER ALL!
I GOT IT!!!



22

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ドーン
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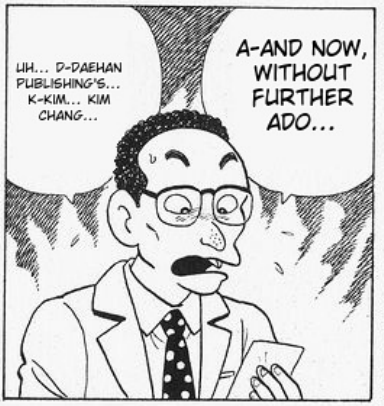
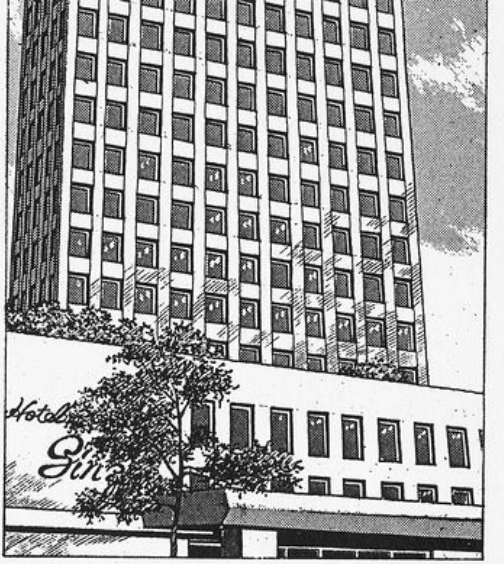
SPRINGY UDON NOODLES AND A NEW SPRING IN HER STEP FROM GOING ON DATES!!! THAT'S FUNNY, RIGHT, GUYS?!

第3話

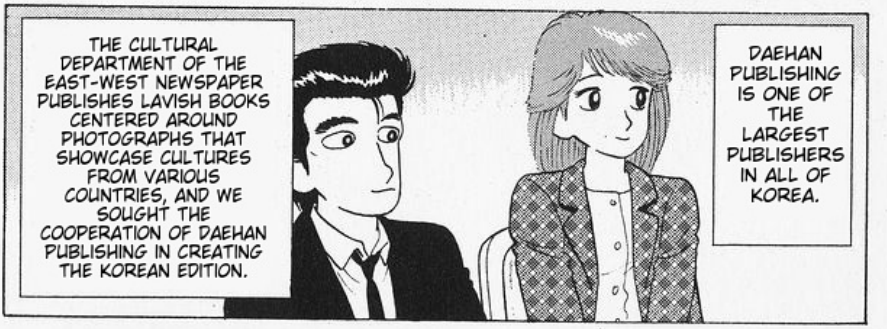
キムチの精神（こころ）


A-AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...
UH... D-DAEHAN PUBLISHING'S... K-KIM... KIM CHANG...


Hotel
Sun

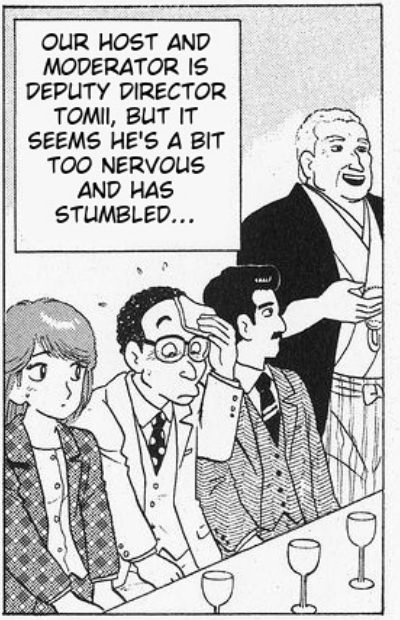
FIRST, LET ME INTRODUCE OHARA FROM THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER...
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE WELCOMING BANQUET HOSTED BY PRESIDENT KIM CHANG-YEONG.
I-I BEG YOUR PARDON...
I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE HERE!

2

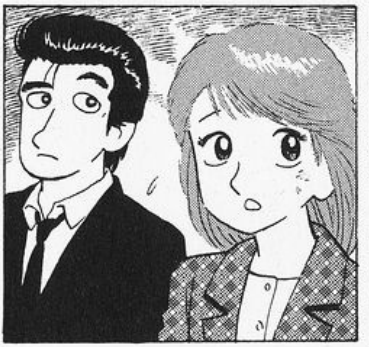

THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHES LAVISH BOOKS CENTERED AROUND PHOTOGRAPHS THAT SHOWCASE CULTURES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND WE SOUGHT THE COOPERATION OF DAEHAN PUBLISHING IN CREATING THE KOREAN EDITION.
DAEHAN PUBLISHING IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PUBLISHERS IN ALL OF KOREA.

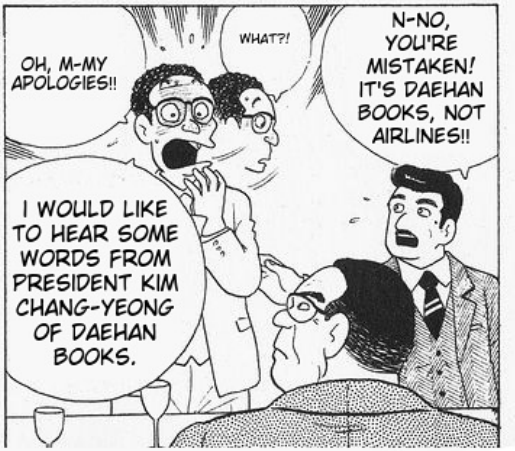
THANKS TO PRESIDENT KIM CHANG-YEONG'S VISIT TO JAPAN, WE'VE FINALLY COME TOGETHER TO PUBLISH IN COLLABORATION. TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION!

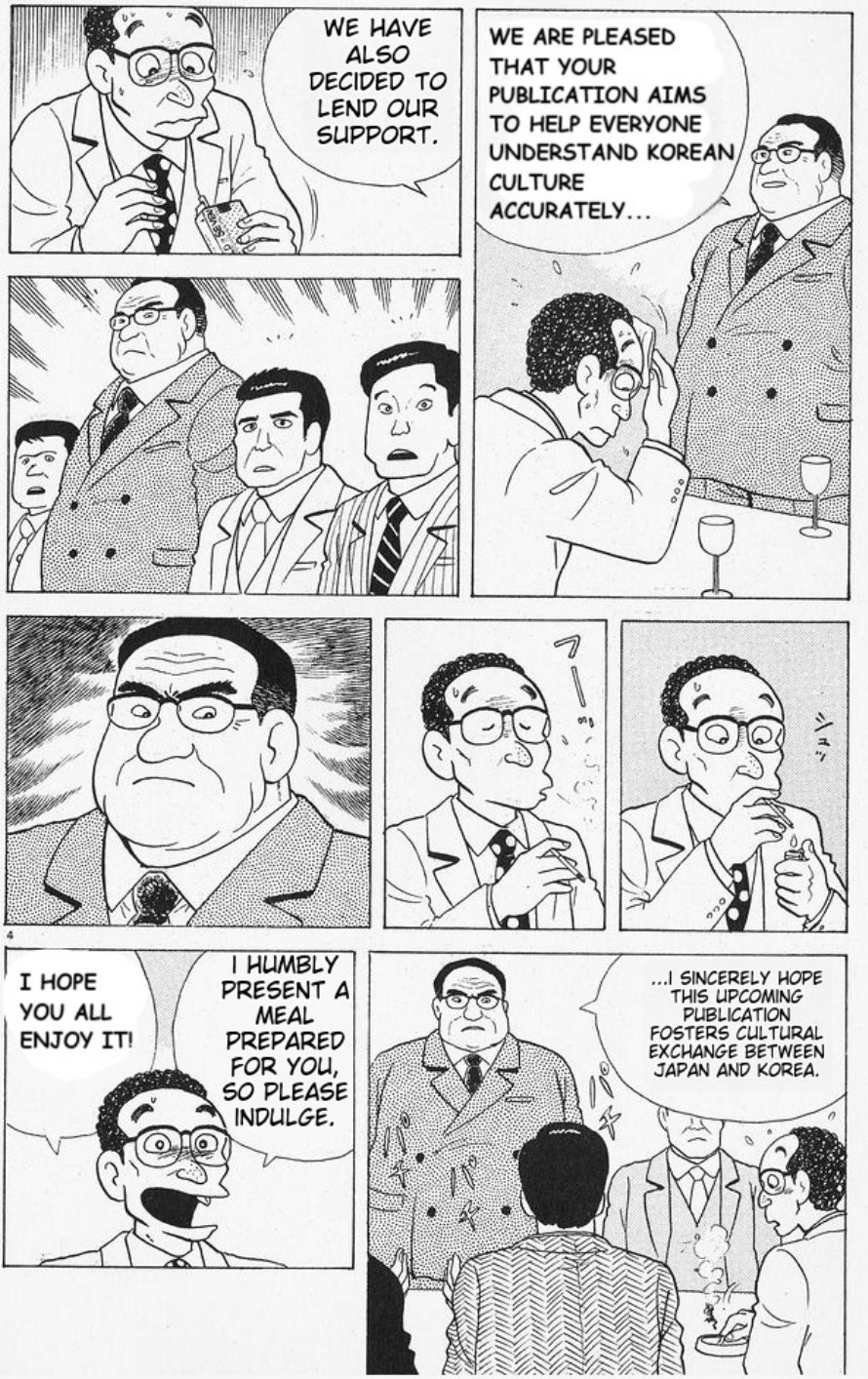
TO PRESIDENT KIM CHANG-YEONG OF KOREAN AIR...
W-WELL THEN, LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT...

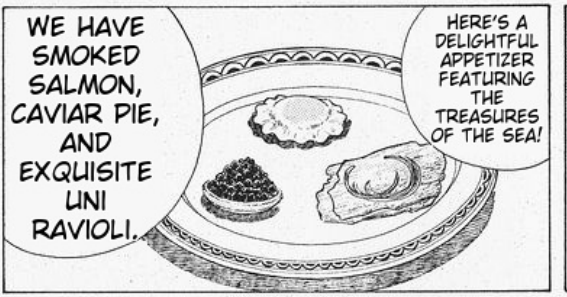

OUR HOST AND MODERATOR IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOMII, BUT IT SEEMS HE'S A BIT TOO NERVOUS AND HAS STUMBLED...

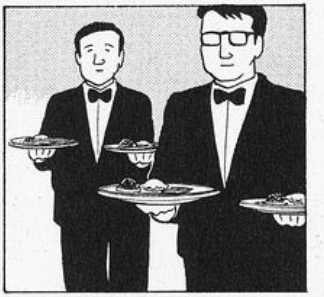
3




OH, M-MY APOLOGIES!!
WHAT?!
N-NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN! IT'S DAEHAN BOOKS, NOT AIRLINES!!
I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR SOME WORDS FROM PRESIDENT KIM CHANG-YEONG OF DAEHAN BOOKS.


WE HAVE ALSO DECIDED TO LEND OUR SUPPORT.
WE ARE PLEASED THAT YOUR PUBLICATION AIMS TO HELP EVERYONE UNDERSTAND KOREAN CULTURE ACCURATELY...
I HUMBLY PRESENT A MEAL PREPARED FOR YOU, SO PLEASE INDULGE.
I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY IT!
...I SINCERELY HOPE THIS UPCOMING PUBLICATION FOSTERS CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA.

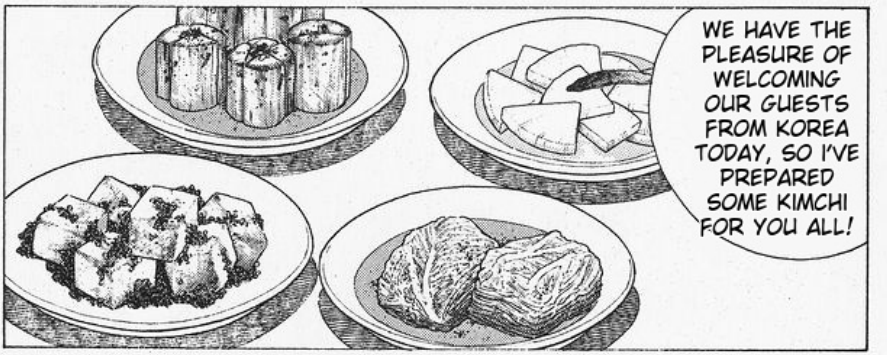

WE HAVE SMOKED SALMON, CAVIAR PIE, AND EXQUISITE UNI RAVIOLI.
HERE'S A DELIGHTFUL APPETIZER FEATURING THE TREASURES OF THE SEA!



5

NOW, LET'S RAISE A GLASS TO THE PROSPERITY OF KOREAN LITERATURE AND THE HEALTH OF PRESIDENT KIM CHANG-YEONG!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

IN JAPAN, WE HAVE A SAYING: 'THREE CUPS TO TOAST!'...
NOW, EVERYONE, LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES AND KEEP THE DRINKS FLOWING!
プハァ


WE HAVE THE PLEASURE OF WELCOMING OUR GUESTS FROM KOREA TODAY, SO I'VE PREPARED SOME KIMCHI FOR YOU ALL!

OH MY, WHAT AN INTRIGUING TWIST THIS IS! LET'S SEE HOW IT TASTES...
TODAY'S DISHES ARE A DELIGHTFUL FUSION OF JAPANESE AND WESTERN FLAVORS, SO I THOUGHT SOME KIMCHI WOULD BE A PERFECT PALATE CLEANSER.

6

THIS KIMCHI IS WAY TOO SPICY!
HMM...

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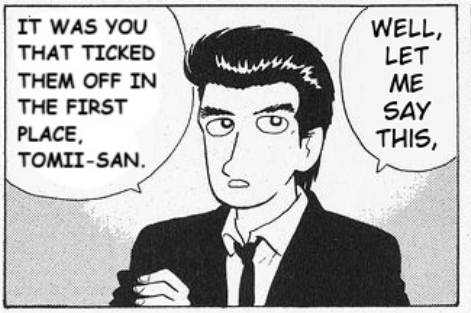
グビ グビ
KIMCHI IS SUPPOSED TO BE SPICY, RIGHT?
HUH? IS IT TOO SPICY?
W-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
HUH?
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT YOU ALL AREN'T TRULY TRYING TO UNDERSTAND KOREAN CULTURE!
7
ガヤ
W-WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!!!
IF YOU HAD EVEN A SMIDGEN OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT KOREAN CULTURE, YOU WOULDN'T KEEP MAKING SUCH RUDE REMARKS.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CANCEL OUR PUBLISHING COLLABORATION.

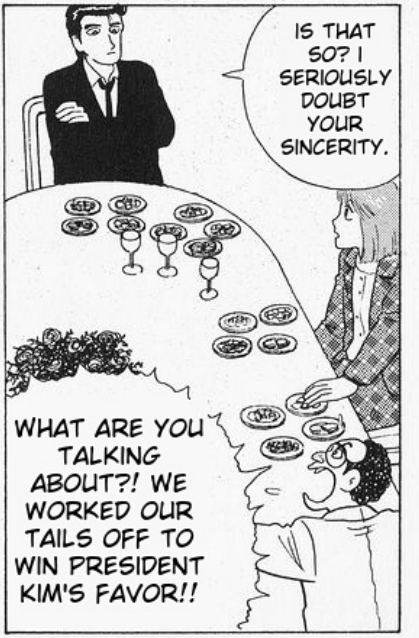
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? WE PUT IN OUR UTMOST EFFORT...?!

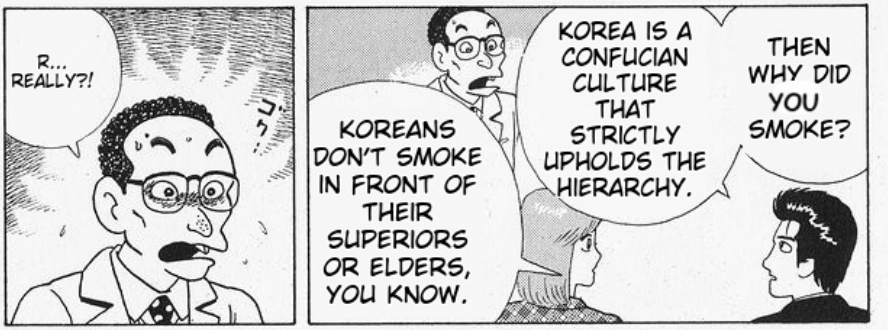
IT SEEMS WE'VE REALLY MANAGED TO UPSET PRESIDENT KIM.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING HERE?!


IT WAS YOU THAT TICKED THEM OFF IN THE FIRST PLACE, TOMII-SAN.
WELL, LET ME SAY THIS,

8

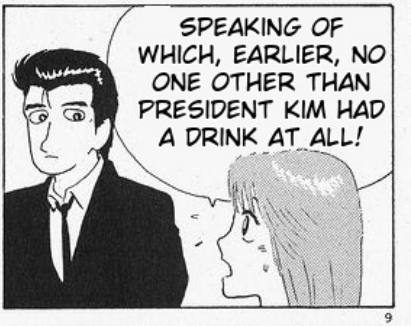
HOW DARE YOU?! I PUT MY HEART AND SOUL INTO THIS!!!
ME?! I DID IT?!


IS THAT SO? I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOUR SINCERITY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WE WORKED OUR TAILS OFF TO WIN PRESIDENT KIM'S FAVOR!!


R... REALLY?!
KOREANS DON'T SMOKE IN FRONT OF THEIR SUPERIORS OR ELDERS, YOU KNOW.
KOREA IS A CONFUCIAN CULTURE THAT STRICTLY UPHOLDS THE HIERARCHY.
THEN WHY DID YOU SMOKE?

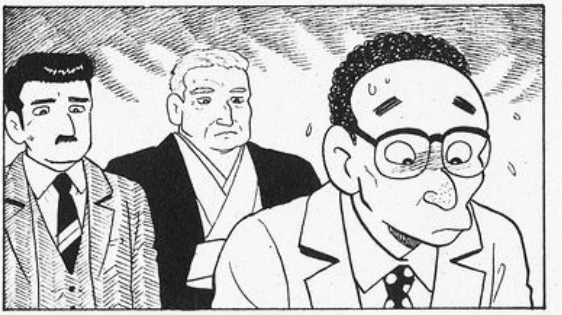
HOWEVER, WE ASKED FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN CREATING A BOOK TO INTRODUCE KOREAN CULTURE TO JAPAN... SO, THEY SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF KOREAN CULTURE, RIGHT?
IF THIS WERE THE NORM, I DON'T THINK PRESIDENT KIM WOULD BE THIS UPSET.
IT'S RIDICULOUS TO DISREGARD SUCH COMMON COURTESY THAT EVERY KOREAN FOLLOWS AND THEN EXPECT TO PROMOTE KOREAN CULTURE.

EVEN IF MY SON REACHES FIFTY OR SIXTY, IF HE DRINKS IN FRONT OF HIS FATHER, IT'S A HUGE DEAL! THE CLAN ELDERS WOULD HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH HIM!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT!


SPEAKING OF WHICH, EARLIER, NO ONE OTHER THAN PRESIDENT KIM HAD A DRINK AT ALL!

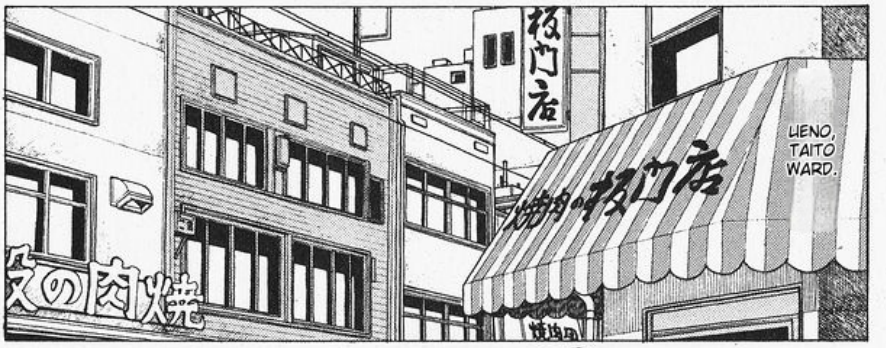
9

IT'S NO WONDER THEY WOULD QUESTION OUR SINCERITY.
ABSOLUTELY TRUE.....



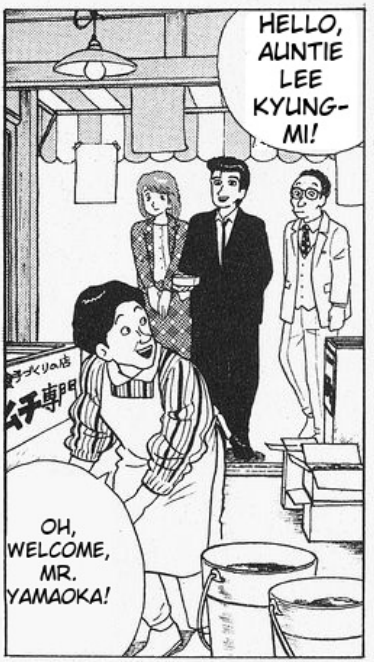
BUT WHAT ON EARTH CAN WE DO?!
I NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO SOOTHE PRESIDENT KIM'S ANGER.
BUT TODAY, I FELT I HAD TO PROPERLY FULFILL MY ROLE AS A HOST, SO I INSTINCTIVELY LIT UP TO CALM MY NERVES...
I USUALLY HARDLY SMOKE AT ALL!
KIMCHI USES A TON OF CHILI PEPPERS, RIGHT? IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR KIMCHI TO BE SPICY!
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW...
THAT RIDICULOUSLY SPICY KIMCHI WAS ONE OF THE REASONS PRESIDENT KIM GOT SO FURIOUS!
HERE IT IS.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO SHOW YOU IN PERSON.

10


LIENO, TAITO WARD.

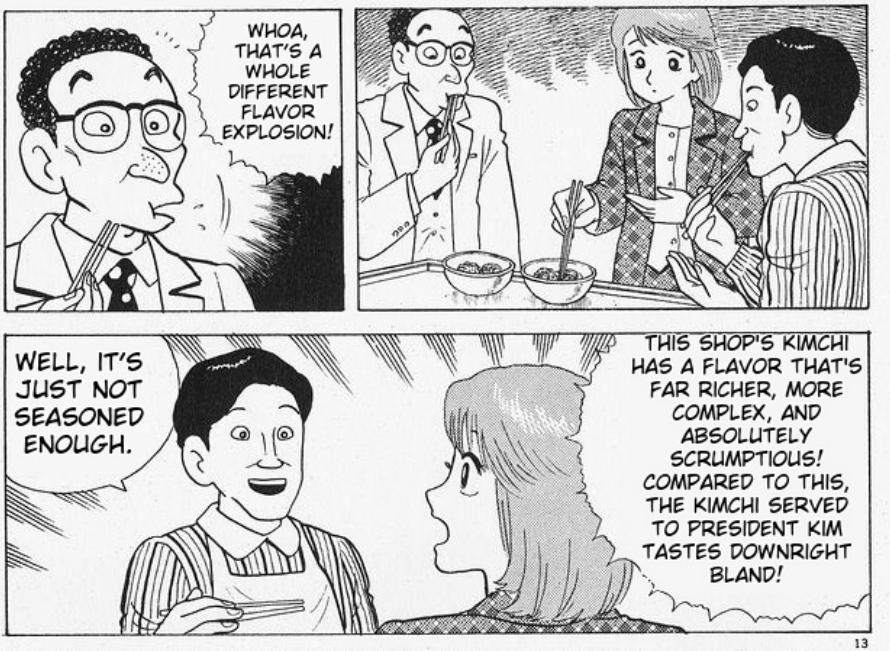
THIS IS THE LARGEST NEIGHBORHOOD OF KOREANS IN TOKYO!
WOW! EVERY STREET IS LINED WITH KOREAN RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS!

11


HELLO, AUNTIE LEE KYUNG-MI!
OH, WELCOME, MR. YAMAOKA!

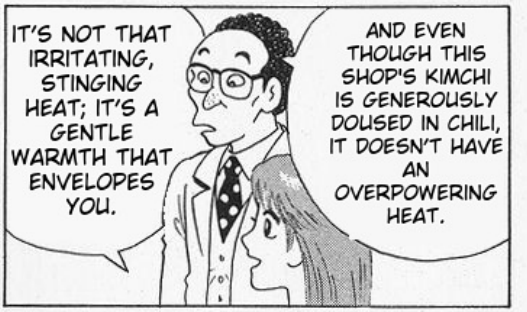
南大門
キムチ専門店
自然食手づくり店
キムチ専門店

OH REALLY?
I'D LIKE TO COMPARE THIS KIMCHI HERE TO SOME OF YOURS.
ON THE LEFT IS THE SHOP'S KIMCHI.
ON THE RIGHT IS THE ONE WE SERVED TO MR. KIM AT THE HOTEL EARLIER,
LOOK, THERE'S GARLIC CHIVES AND SOMETHING SHREDDED SO THIN IT LOOKS LIKE THREADS...
HMM... THEY BOTH LOOK THE SAME TO ME.
12
WELL, GIVE IT A TASTE AND SEE!
BUT BOTH ARE GENEROUSLY COATED IN CHILI PEPPER, AND THEY'RE BRIGHT RED!
NOT QUITE, THE KIMCHI FROM THIS SHOP SEEMS TO HAVE A VARIETY OF INGREDIENTS BESIDES JUST NAPA CABBAGE.


WHOA, THAT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT FLAVOR EXPLOSION!
WELL, IT'S JUST NOT SEASONED ENOUGH.
THIS SHOP'S KIMCHI HAS A FLAVOR THAT'S FAR RICHER, MORE COMPLEX, AND ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS! COMPARED TO THIS, THE KIMCHI SERVED TO PRESIDENT KIM TASTES DOWNRIGHT BLAND!
13
OUR VERSION HAS RAW OYSTERS, ABALONE, PEAR, CHIVES, AND KELP MIXED IN!
REALLY?! YOU ADD SALTED SHRIMP?!
SALTED SHRIMP, TINY FISH, PINE NUTS, SALTED CRAB—IF YOU DON'T MIX THOSE TOGETHER, YOU'LL NEVER UNLOCK THE TRUE ESSENCE OF KIMCHI!
JUST TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S LINED UP AT THAT STAND OVER THERE.
RAW OYSTERS AND ABALONE TOO?!

THE KIMCHI YOU BROUGHT ONLY USES GARLIC, SALT, AND CHILI PEPPERS. YOU'VE MASKED THE FLAVOR WITH HEAPS OF ARTIFICIAL SEASONING INSTEAD OF SEAFOOD.
THE DELICIOUSNESS OF KIMCHI COMES FROM THE UMAMI OF LACTO-FERMENTED VEGETABLES COMBINED WITH THE UMAMI OF SEAFOOD AMINO ACIDS.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, EVEN THE SAME CHILI SEEDS, WHEN PLANTED IN JAPAN, YIELD A FIERCER HEAT.
WHEN YOU SPRINKLE IT ON KOREAN SOIL, THE SPICINESS BECOMES BEAUTIFULLY ROUNDED.


IT'S NOT THAT IRRITATING, STINGING HEAT; IT'S A GENTLE WARMTH THAT ENVELOPES YOU.
AND EVEN THOUGH THIS SHOP'S KIMCHI IS GENEROUSLY DOUSED IN CHILI, IT DOESN'T HAVE AN OVERPOWERING HEAT.

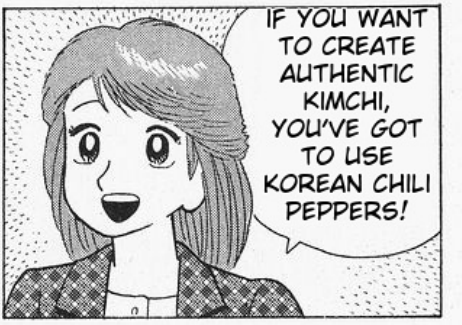
THE KIMCHI WE USE HERE IS MADE WITH KOREAN CHILI PEPPERS, WHILE THE KIMCHI BROUGHT FROM THE HOTEL IS MADE WITH JAPANESE PEPPERS.
THAT'S THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE.

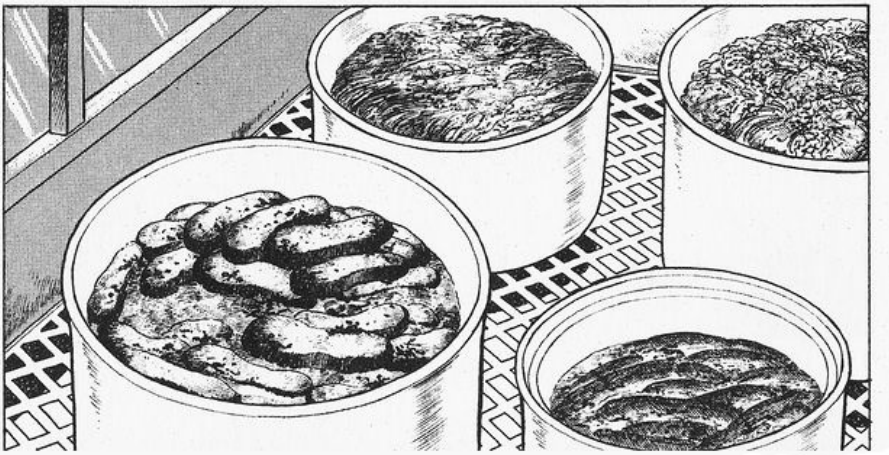
14

KIMCHI THAT'S TOO SPICY IS JUST A SCAM!
I SEE NOW! THAT'S WHAT MR. KIM WAS TALKING ABOUT.

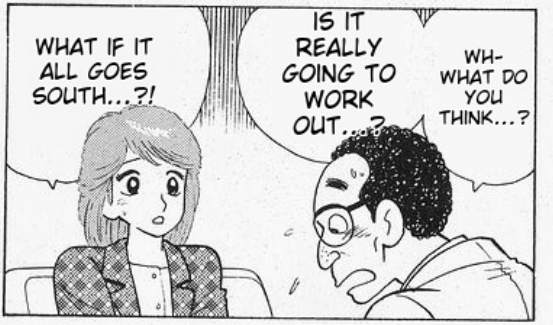
IT'S TRULY FASCINATING
REALLY? WOW!

DELICIOUS STORIES
VOLUME 10!

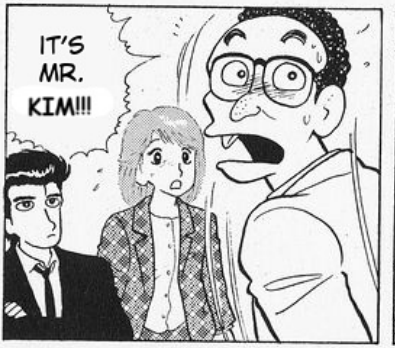


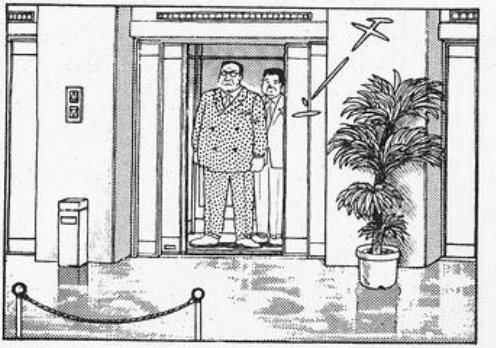


Hotel
Sun

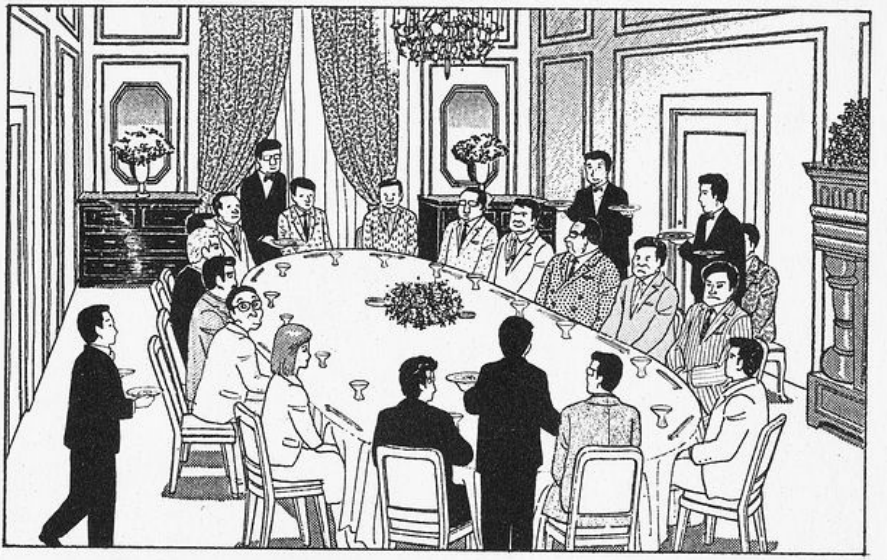

WHAT IF IT ALL GOES SOUTH...?!
IS IT REALLY GOING TO WORK OUT...?
WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

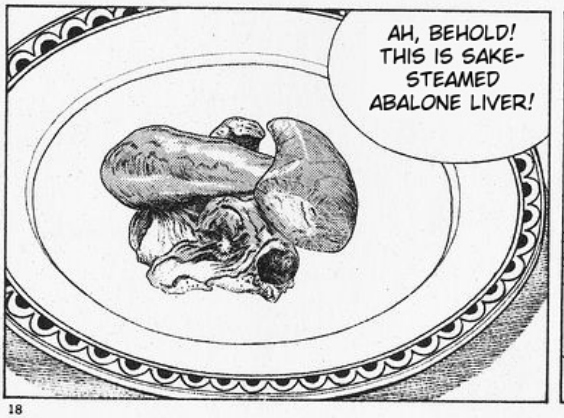
16


IT'S MR. KIM!!!



MR. KIM...
I'M SO GLAD– AUNT LEE'S KIMCHI IS THE REAL DEAL!
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?!
THAT WAS SOME INCREDIBLE KIMCHI!
I NEVER IMAGINED I COULD SAVOR SUCH DELICIOUS KIMCHI IN JAPAN!
WOULD YOU ALLOW US TO TREAT YOU ONCE MORE, PLEASE?
MR. KIM,
17
PLEASE, I BEG YOU!!




AH, BEHOLD! THIS IS SAKE-STEAMED ABALONE LIVER!

18

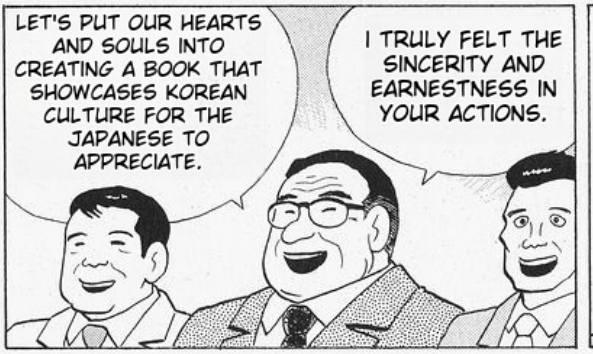
MMM, SO DELICIOUS!

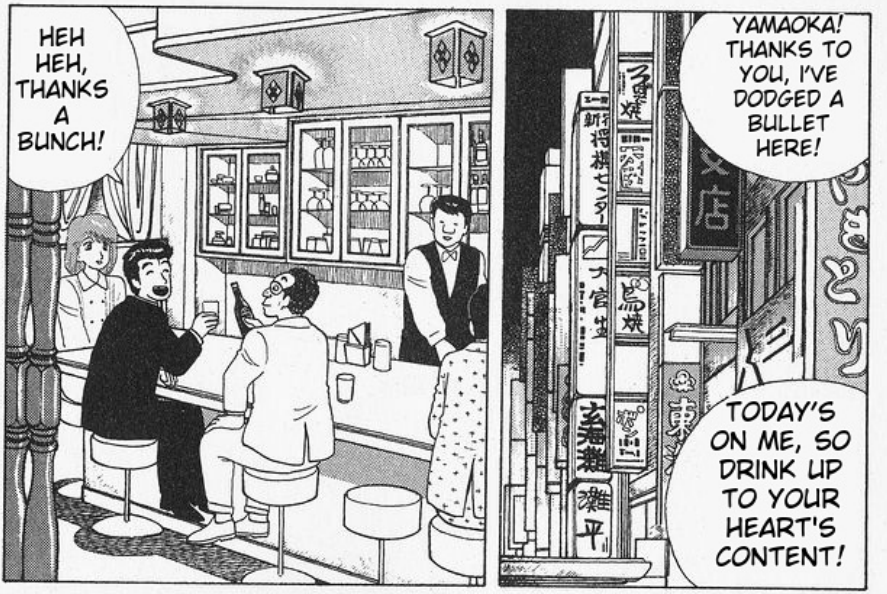
THE LIVER OF THE ABALONE IS A BELOVED DELICACY AMONG KOREANS, YOU SEE. THOSE WHO EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF CONFUCIANISM WILL FIERCELY COMPETE WITH THEIR PARENTS JUST TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THAT PRECIOUS LIVER...
I'M TRULY EMBARRASSED FOR THE GRAVE RUDENESS I DISPLAYED THE OTHER DAY.
I SEE... YOU ARE INDEED A PERSON OF SINCERITY.
OF COURSE, I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ASSIST.
NOW, REGARDING THE MATTER OF PUBLISHING COOPERATION...
OH, NOT AT ALL! I'VE BEEN REFLECTING ON MY OWN IMPATIENCE AS WELL.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YES!!!

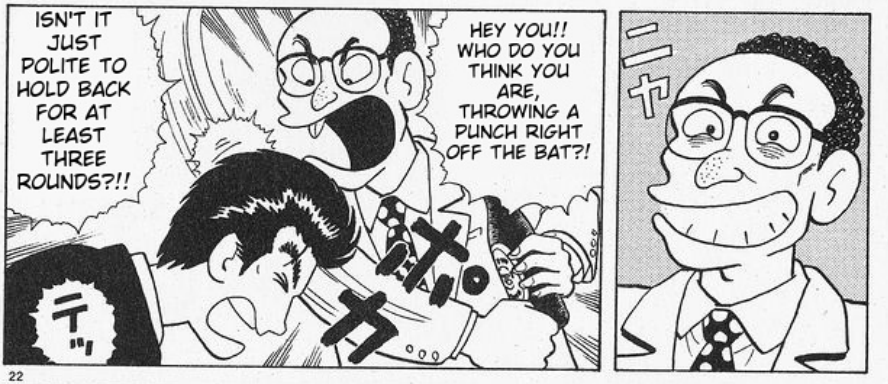
NO, I REALLY...
LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES!
WHAT'S THE MATTER!? IT SEEMS YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD FOR DRINKS TODAY.
IF I REFUSE ANY FURTHER, IT MIGHT COME OFF AS RUDE,
UM, I'VE BEEN OFFERED THREE TIMES ALREADY.
WELL THEN, I'LL INDULGE!
NO, TODAY I...
DON'T SAY THAT!!
COME ON NOW.
SHALL WE CONTINUE THIS JOYOUS OCCASION?

20

DELICIOUS STORIES
VOLUME 10!




HEH HEH, THANKS A BUNCH!
YAMAOKA! THANKS TO YOU, I'VE DODGED A BULLET HERE!
TODAY'S ON ME, SO DRINK UP TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

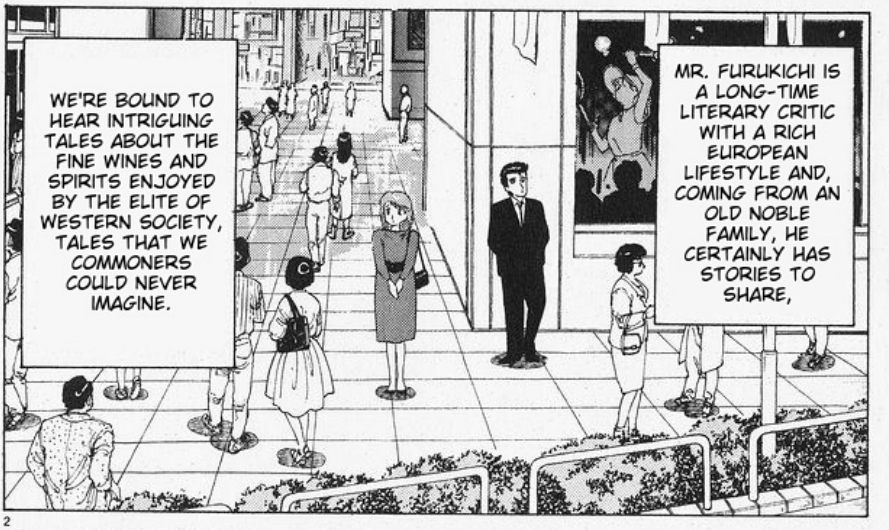

ISN'T IT JUST POLITE TO HOLD BACK FOR AT LEAST THREE ROUNDS?!!
HEY YOU!! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, THROWING A PUNCH RIGHT OFF THE BAT?!
ポカ
ニヤ

22

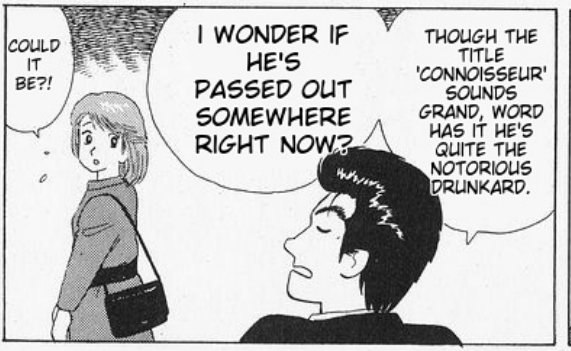
W-WAIT, WHAT?!

第4話
古酒
クース
邦之禮守

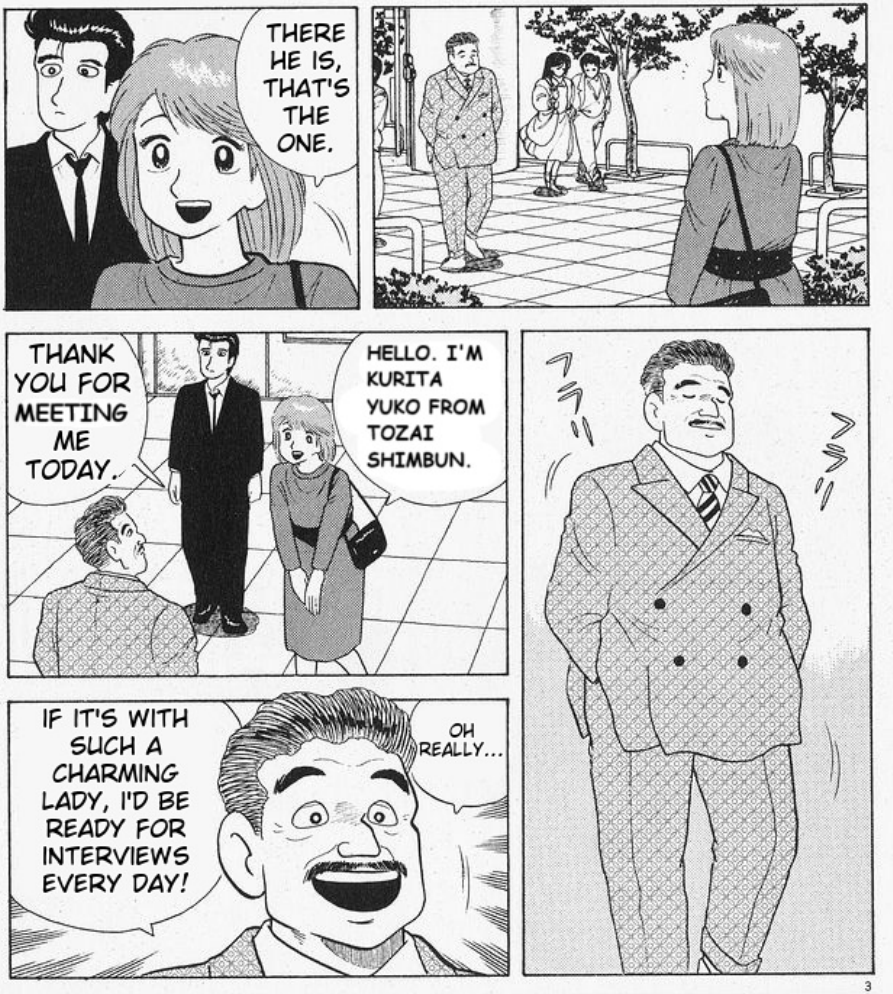
AS PART OF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' WE'VE DECIDED TO CONSULT MR. SHINICHI FURUKICHI, A CONNOISSEUR OF ALL THINGS ALCOHOLIC.

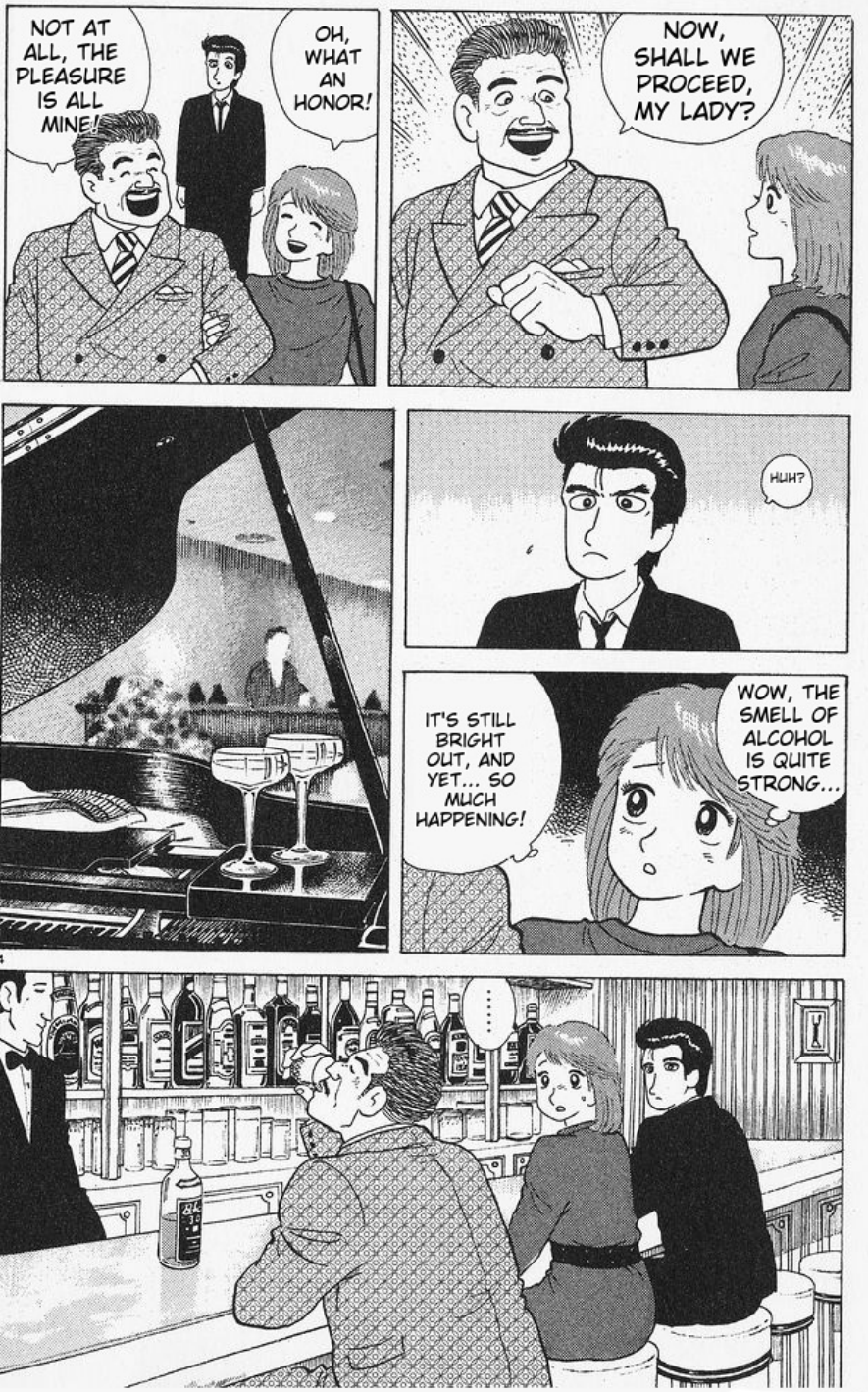

WE'RE BOUND TO HEAR INTRIGUING TALES ABOUT THE FINE WINES AND SPIRITS ENJOYED BY THE ELITE OF WESTERN SOCIETY, TALES THAT WE COMMONERS COULD NEVER IMAGINE.
MR. FURUKICHI IS A LONG-TIME LITERARY CRITIC WITH A RICH EUROPEAN LIFESTYLE AND, COMING FROM AN OLD NOBLE FAMILY, HE CERTAINLY HAS STORIES TO SHARE,

2

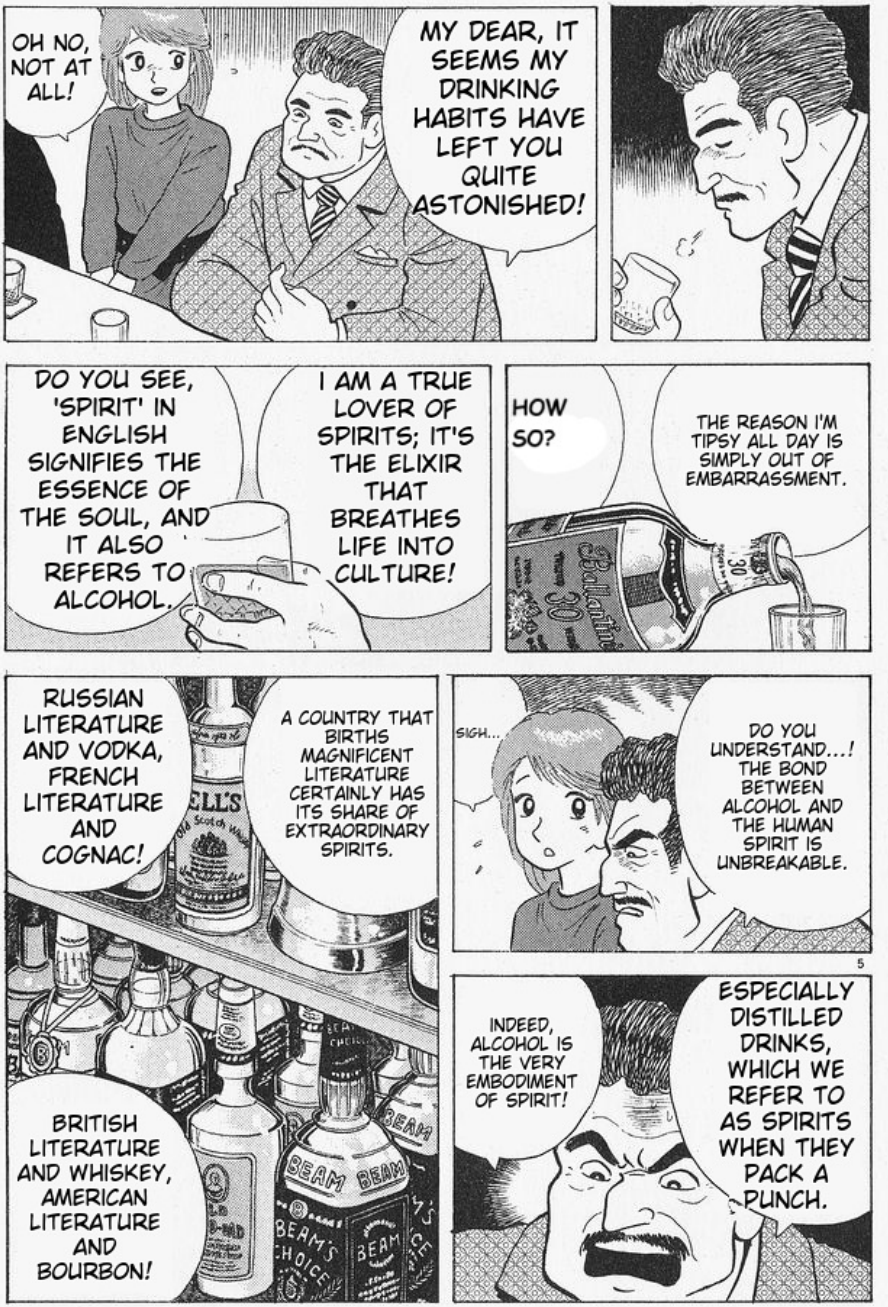

COULD IT BE?!
I WONDER IF HE'S PASSED OUT SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW?
THOUGH THE TITLE 'CONNOISSEUR' SOUNDS GRAND, WORD HAS IT HE'S QUITE THE NOTORIOUS DRUNKARD.

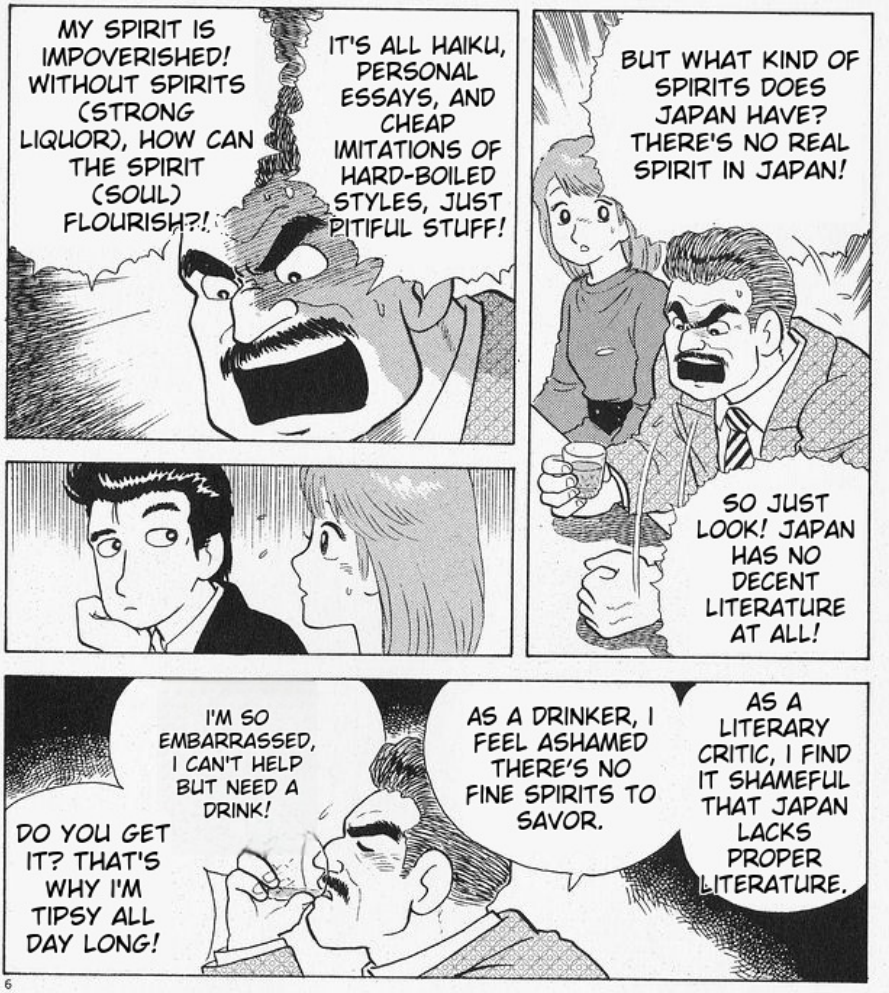
I WONDER WHAT'S TAKING MR. FURUKICHI SO LONG; HE'S LATE...


THERE HE IS, THAT'S THE ONE.
THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME TODAY.
HELLO. I'M KURITA YUKO FROM TOZAI SHIMBUN.
IF IT'S WITH SUCH A CHARMING LADY, I'D BE READY FOR INTERVIEWS EVERY DAY!
OH REALLY...
3
HUH?
OH DEAR, WHAT A DULL MAN.
THIS IS YAMAOKA SHIRO. HE'LL BE JOINING US, TOO!
AH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
HI.


NOT AT ALL, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!
OH, WHAT AN HONOR!
NOW, SHALL WE PROCEED, MY LADY?
HUH?
WOW, THE SMELL OF ALCOHOL IS QUITE STRONG...
IT'S STILL BRIGHT OUT, AND YET... SO MUCH HAPPENING!
.....

DELICIOUS!


OH NO, NOT AT ALL!
MY DEAR, IT SEEMS MY DRINKING HABITS HAVE LEFT YOU QUITE ASTONISHED!
DO YOU SEE, 'SPIRIT' IN ENGLISH SIGNIFIES THE ESSENCE OF THE SOUL, AND IT ALSO REFERS TO ALCOHOL.
I AM A TRUE LOVER OF SPIRITS; IT'S THE ELIXIR THAT BREATHES LIFE INTO CULTURE!
HOW SO?
THE REASON I'M TIPSY ALL DAY IS SIMPLY OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT.
Ballantine's
30
RUSSIAN LITERATURE AND VODKA, FRENCH LITERATURE AND COGNAC!
A COUNTRY THAT BIRTHS MAGNIFICENT LITERATURE CERTAINLY HAS ITS SHARE OF EXTRAORDINARY SPIRITS.
BRITISH LITERATURE AND WHISKEY, AMERICAN LITERATURE AND BOURBON!
BEAM
BEAM'S CHOICE
SIGH...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND...! THE BOND BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS UNBREAKABLE.
5
INDEED, ALCOHOL IS THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF SPIRIT!
ESPECIALLY DISTILLED DRINKS, WHICH WE REFER TO AS SPIRITS WHEN THEY PACK A PUNCH.


MY SPIRIT IS IMPOVERISHED! WITHOUT SPIRITS (STRONG LIQUOR), HOW CAN THE SPIRIT (SOUL) FLOURISH?!
IT'S ALL HAIKU, PERSONAL ESSAYS, AND CHEAP IMITATIONS OF HARD-BOILED STYLES, JUST PITIFUL STUFF!
BUT WHAT KIND OF SPIRITS DOES JAPAN HAVE? THERE'S NO REAL SPIRIT IN JAPAN!
SO JUST LOOK! JAPAN HAS NO DECENT LITERATURE AT ALL!
I'M SO EMBARRASSED, I CAN'T HELP BUT NEED A DRINK!
AS A DRINKER, I FEEL ASHAMED THERE'S NO FINE SPIRITS TO SAVOR.
AS A LITERARY CRITIC, I FIND IT SHAMEFUL THAT JAPAN LACKS PROPER LITERATURE.
DO YOU GET IT? THAT'S WHY I'M TIPSY ALL DAY LONG!
6
WHAT? A SHOCHU BOOM?!
THEY SAY THERE'S A SHOCHU BOOM GOING ON RIGHT NOW...
WELL... REGARDLESS OF YOUR THOUGHTS ON LITERATURE, ISN'T THERE STRONG DISTILLED LIQUOR IN JAPAN TOO?

DELICIOUS!

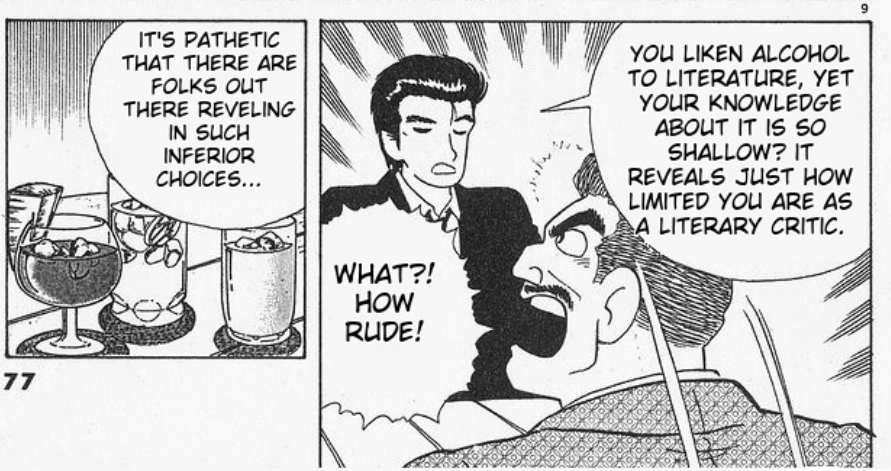
W-WHAT IS GOING ON ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THIS SHOCHU CRAZE IS ALL ABOUT!
STEP RIGHT IN!
Hamic Bar
DITRIP
...A HOLE...
7
LEMON CHUHAI, MILK CHUU, PASSION FRUIT DRINKS!
COMING RIGHT UP!

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THEY'RE ALL DRINKING KO SHOCHU.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ELEVATE YOUR SPIRIT WITH SUCH A DRINK?!
WHAT'S THIS KO SHOCHU YOU KEEP MENTIONING?
IS THIS REALLY ALCOHOL? IT FEELS MORE LIKE A REFRESHING BEVERAGE!
..KO SHOCHU IS MADE INDUSTRIALLY FROM THE LEFTOVER MOLASSES AFTER EXTRACTING SUGAR FROM SUGARCANE, THEN DILUTED WITH WATER.
OTSU SHOCHU IS BREWED FROM RICE OR SWEET POTATOES, THEN DISTILLED INTO ITS FINAL FORM.
SHOCHU COMES IN TWO VARIETIES: KO AND OTSU.
NOW, IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OTSU SHOCHU, THERE ARE SOME REAL GEMS OUT THERE.
SATSUMA SWEET POTATO SHOCHU, KUMAMOTO'S KUMASAKI SHOCHU, NAGASAKI BARLEY SHOCHU...
WHEN IT COMES TO ART OR LITERATURE, NOTHING OF DEPTH CAN EVER BE CREATED.
DRINKING NOTHING BUT THIS KIND OF STUFF IS WHY YOU END UP WITH A SHALLOW AND FLIMSY SPIRIT!
8
I'M FLABBERGASTED, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE JUST IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD...
ANY SPIRIT UNDER 40 PROOF ISN'T EVEN WORTHY OF THE TITLE 'SPIRIT'!
NO WAY, THAT'S JUST WRONG! ALL THOSE SHOCHUS HAVE AN ALCOHOL CONTENT UNDER 40 PROOF!

DELICIOUS!

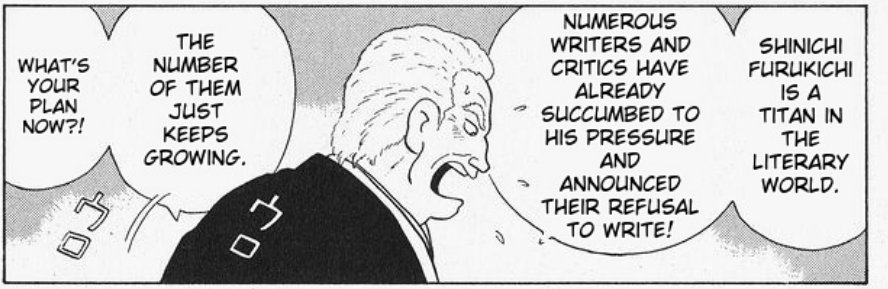
UNSOPHISTICATED YOU SAY?!
'AWAMORI' YOU SAY?! NO MATTER HOW HIGH THE ALCOHOL CONTENT, THAT UNSOPHISTICATED DRINK JUST WON'T CUT IT!
OKINAWA'S 'AWAMORI' MUST HAVE VARIETIES WITH AN ALCOHOL CONTENT OVER 40 DEGREES.
...AH, WAIT! THERE IT IS –'AWAMORI'!
'AWAMORI' SURELY LACKS THE QUALITY TO WITHSTAND SUCH LONG-TERM AGING OF 30 YEARS.
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S ABOUT THE HIGH QUALITY THAT COMES FROM AGING IT FOR 30 YEARS.
BUT 'AWAMORI' IS JUST DISTILLED LIQUOR THAT YOU DRINK RIGHT AWAY, ISN'T IT?! LOOK AT WHISKEY AND BRANDY–THEY AGE FOR 10, EVEN 20 YEARS!
EXACTLY!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE WHISKEY I HAD AT THE BAR EARLIER WAS A 30-YEAR-OLD!

9


IT'S PATHETIC THAT THERE ARE FOLKS OUT THERE REVELING IN SUCH INFERIOR CHOICES...
YOU LIKEN ALCOHOL TO LITERATURE, YET YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IT IS SO SHALLOW? IT REVEALS JUST HOW LIMITED YOU ARE AS A LITERARY CRITIC.
WHAT?! HOW RUDE!

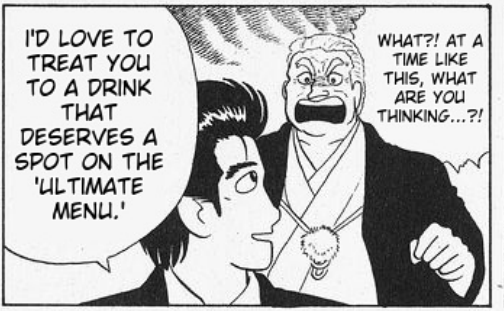
YOU LISTEN HERE!!
THOSE PRETENTIOUS WESTERN-OBSESSED INTELLECTUALS ARE JUST PATHETIC!
.....
I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR THIS!!
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!
YET YOU KEEP STIRRING UP ALL THIS TROUBLE...!!
THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' HASN'T GOTTEN ANYWHERE AT ALL!!

10


WHAT'S YOUR PLAN NOW?!
THE NUMBER OF THEM JUST KEEPS GROWING.
NUMEROUS WRITERS AND CRITICS HAVE ALREADY SUCCUMBED TO HIS PRESSURE AND ANNOUNCED THEIR REFUSAL TO WRITE!
SHINICHI FURUKICHI IS A TITAN IN THE LITERARY WORLD.

YAMAOKA!
WHAT?!

UGH... WHAT A MISERLY DRUNK.


I'D LOVE TO TREAT YOU TO A DRINK THAT DESERVES A SPOT ON THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
WHAT?! AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...?!

LET'S ALL TAKE A TRIP TO OKINAWA TOGETHER!
IT LOOKS LIKE I NEED TO SOBER THAT OLD COOT UP.

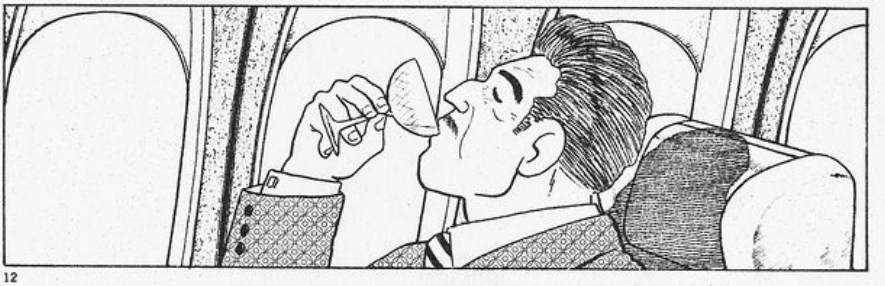
11

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

IS THAT REALLY TRUE?!

WAIT, ARE YOU SAYING WE CAN PUT IT ON THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!

ゴオオンン...
JAPAN AIR



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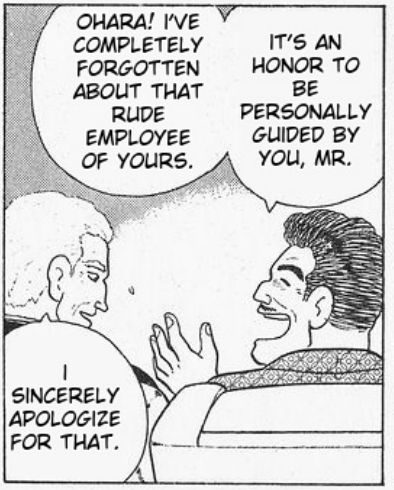
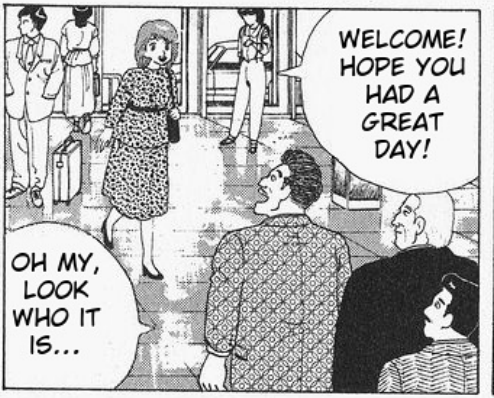

OHARA! I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT RUDE EMPLOYEE OF YOURS.
IT'S AN HONOR TO BE PERSONALLY GUIDED BY YOU, MR.
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

OUR EMPLOYEE, YAMAOKA, SENDS HIS APOLOGIES FOR HIS DISRESPECT TOWARDS YOU.
I HOPE YOU THOROUGHLY ENJOY YOUR TRIP TO OKINAWA!

DELICIOUS!


WELCOME! HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT DAY!
OH MY, LOOK WHO IT IS...

那覇空港

I'M JUST OVERJOYED TO SEE A LOVELY LADY LIKE YOU AGAIN!
OH, DON'T MENTION IT! IT'S THAT PUNK EMPLOYEE'S FAULT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

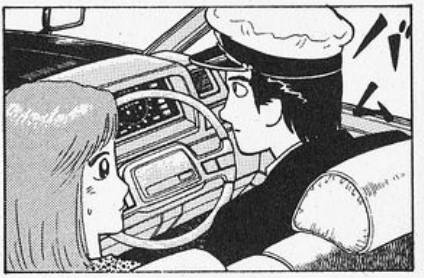
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS BACK THEN.

WELCOME!

PLEASE, YOUR CAR IS ALL SET AND WAITING.

YOU AGAIN?!

DON'T DWELL ON THAT MAN WHO WAS LET GO FROM OUR COMPANY; LET'S NOT WASTE ANOTHER MOMENT—COME, LET'S GET IN THE CAR.
むむむっ
THIS EMPLOYEE WAS DISMISSED FOR DISRESPECTING YOU, MR. FURUKICHI. AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S NOW MERELY OUR DRIVER.



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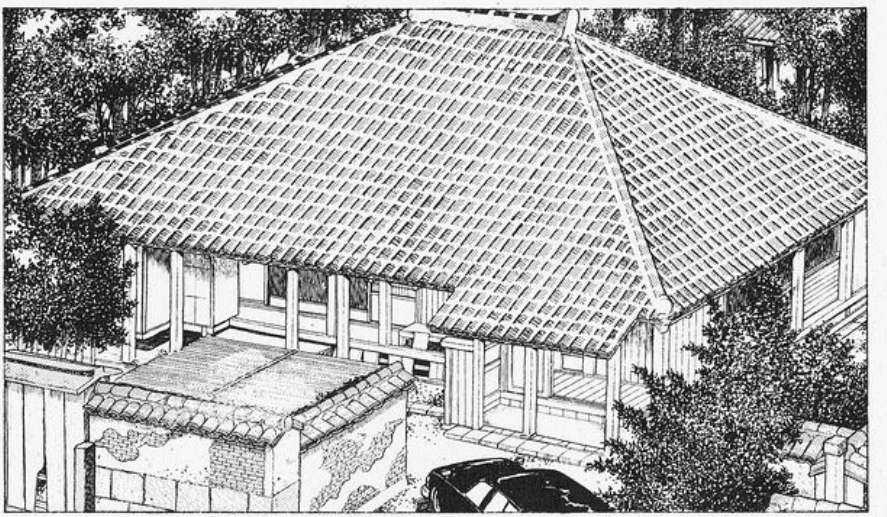
OH REALLY?
I HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MIND TO TAKE YOU, MR. FURUKICHI.

14

HMM...

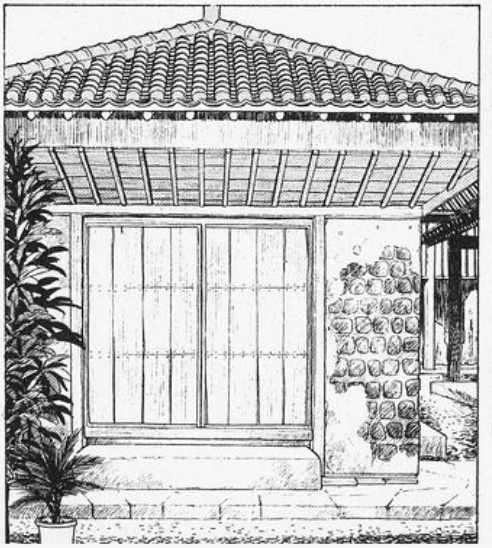
I WAS THINKING OF OFFERING YOU A DRINK THAT EVEN YOU, HAVE NEVER TRIED BEFORE.

DELICIOUS!



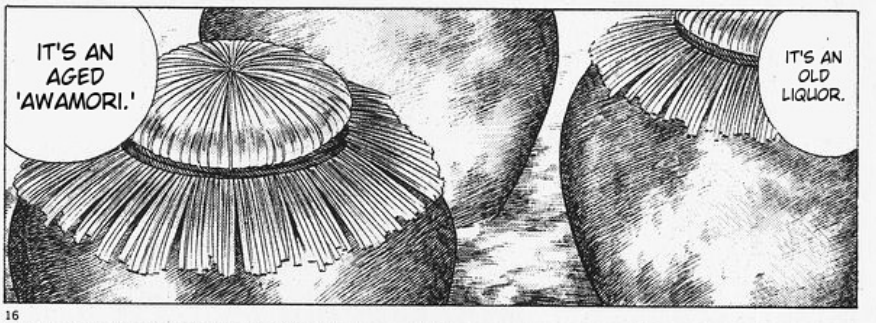
WELL, PLEASE, COME THIS WAY!
OH, NO, NOT AT ALL!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME. I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE TODAY.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MR. KIYONA, THE PROUD OWNER OF A MAGNIFICENT 'AWAMORI' DISTILLERY.



SUCH A SIMPLE SPIRIT...
YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING I DRINK THAT LOWLY 'AWAMORI,' ARE YOU?

OH? WHAT'S THIS?


IT'S AN AGED 'AWAMORI.'
IT'S AN OLD LIQUOR.

16

TEN YEARS!!
TEN YEARS!?

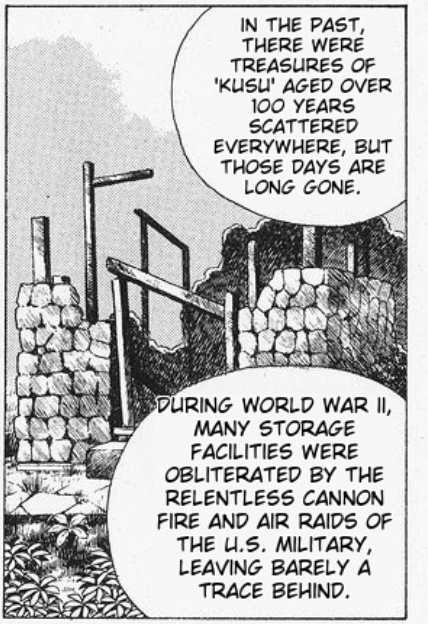
AGED AWAMORI?

THE OLDEST SAKE HERE IS JUST A TAD OVER TEN YEARS OLD.
WHEN YOU SAY 'AGED,' HOW MANY YEARS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

DELICIOUS!

WHEN IT'S AGED IN CERAMIC JARS FOR A SIGNIFICANT TIME, WE CALL IT 'KUSU' OR OLD LIQUOR.
THE MAGIC OF 'AWAMORI' STARTS WITH RICE. WITH THE HELP OF BLACK KOJI MOLD, WE DISTILL THIS RICE TO CREATE THE SPIRIT KNOWN AS 'AWAMORI'.

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU LET IT SIT, THERE'S NO WAY 'AWAMORI' IS GOING TO TASTE THAT GOOD.


IN THE PAST, THERE WERE TREASURES OF 'KUSU' AGED OVER 100 YEARS SCATTERED EVERYWHERE, BUT THOSE DAYS ARE LONG GONE.
DURING WORLD WAR II, MANY STORAGE FACILITIES WERE OBLITERATED BY THE RELENTLESS CANNON FIRE AND AIR RAIDS OF THE U.S. MILITARY, LEAVING BARELY A TRACE BEHIND.

THE ONLY WAY TO TRULY UNDERSTAND IS TO GIVE IT A TRY.
TALK IS CHEAP; THE PROOF IS IN THE TASTING.

THIS ONE HAS BEEN AGED FOR 20 YEARS, BUT...

ふぅ…
THIS SCENT... THAT DISTINCTIVE 'AWAMORI' AROMA HAS MELLOWED BEAUTIFULLY.
OH, LOOK AT THAT GOLDEN HUE... 'AWAMORI' IS SUPPOSED TO BE COLORLESS AND CLEAR.
THIS ONE HAS BEEN AGED FOR 30 YEARS.
THE AROMA IS EVEN MORE REFINED THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
...SO THIS IS 'AWAMORI'!!
DESPITE THE HIGH ALCOHOL CONTENT, IT'S INCREDIBLY EASY TO SIP!
WHAT A VELVETY FLAVOR!
18
IT'S NOT JUST SMOOTH; THERE'S A LUSCIOUS SWEETNESS THAT UNFOLDS!
WOW, LETTING IT AGE FOR ANOTHER DECADE MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE!

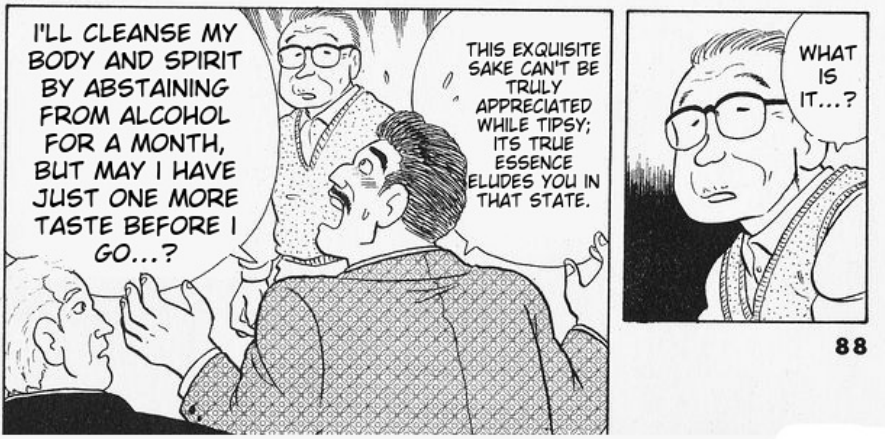
DELICIOUS!

THIS IS A 40-YEAR-OLD BREW.
AH, 30 YEARS.....
ゲッ
OH WOW, THE FRAGRANCE HAS BECOME EVEN MORE REFRESHING!
IT'S A REFRESHING AROMA, LIKE A GENTLE BREEZE SWEEPING THROUGH THE EARLY SPRING FIELDS.

IT'S EVEN MORE CRISP AND EASY TO DRINK THAN THE LAST ONE!
IT TRANSCENDS MERE DELICIOUSNESS.
...TO THINK SUCH A SAKE EXISTS IN THIS WORLD...

ISN'T THIS THE KIND OF RESILIENCE THAT ONLY THE FINEST SAKE CAN POSSESS?
AS IT AGES, IT GROWS EVER MORE LUSCIOUS AND GENTLE.
YET, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE FLAVOR HAS THINNED OUT! ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S BLOSSOMED INTO SOMETHING EVEN RICHER.
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT; ALL DISTRACTIONS HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.
STOP IT, PLEASE!!
THIS VERY SAKE DESERVES A SPOT ON THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WITHOUT A DOUBT!
THIS IS A 50-YEAR-OLD VINTAGE.

20


I'LL CLEANSE MY BODY AND SPIRIT BY ABSTAINING FROM ALCOHOL FOR A MONTH, BUT MAY I HAVE JUST ONE MORE TASTE BEFORE I GO...?
THIS EXQUISITE SAKE CAN'T BE TRULY APPRECIATED WHILE TIPSY; ITS TRUE ESSENCE ELUDES YOU IN THAT STATE.
WHAT IS IT...?

DELICIOUS!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!! I'M TREMBLING WITH JOY!!
AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD TREASURES WE CAN INDULGE IN!
ABSOLUTELY! FIFTY-YEAR-OLD, SIXTY-YEAR-OLD...
IT'S A REVELATION TO LEARN THAT JAPAN HOLDS SUCH MAGNIFICENT SPIRITS!
YOUNG ONE, I OWE YOU MY GRATITUDE.
THEN YOU'LL SURELY CREATE SOME MARVELOUS WORKS.
PLEASE ENCOURAGE JAPANESE WRITERS TO COME SAVOR THE ANCIENT SPIRITS OF OKINAWA.
HUH?
OH NO, NO! IF YOU DO THAT, THERE WON'T BE ANY LEFT FOR ME!
WELL THEN.

HEY THERE, EVERYONE!
OH, IT'S YOU, MR. FURUKICHI.
A FEW MONTHS LATER–
NISSAN
SO, WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON JAPAN'S LITERARY SCENE?
I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO AGED AWAMORI, NOW!!!
YOU ALL SHOULD FORGET ABOUT THE DRUDGERY OF LITERATURE,
THE FINEST AGED SAKE WILL LIFT YOUR SPIRITS SO HIGH, WHO EVEN HAS TIME FOR LITERATURE!
LITERATURE? THAT'S JUST FOR THE UNFORTUNATE SOULS!
22
……

第5話
おせちと花嫁

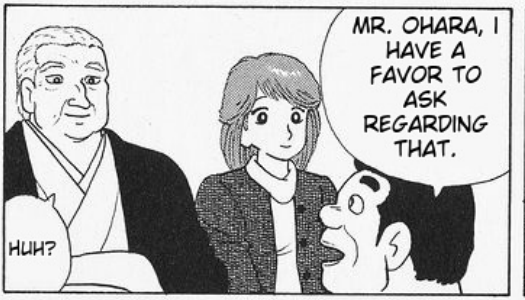
TODAY, I PAID A LONG-AWAITED VISIT TO YOUNG YOKOZUNA WAKAYOSHIBA WHO SPLENDIDLY CLAIMED VICTORY AT THE KYUSHU BASHO.

THANKS TO EVERYONE, I'VE FINALLY MADE IT AS A REAL CONTENDER!

WAKA-YOKOZUNA HAS NOW TRIUMPHED THREE TIMES THIS YEAR— HE'S ALREADY AN UNDENIABLE GRAND CHAMPION!
WE'RE ALL SO DEEPLY PROUD OF HIS VICTORIES!
I'M TRULY HONORED.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SETTLED DOWN AND FOUND YOURSELF A WIFE.
NEXT UP, IT'S TIME TO FIND A BRIDE.

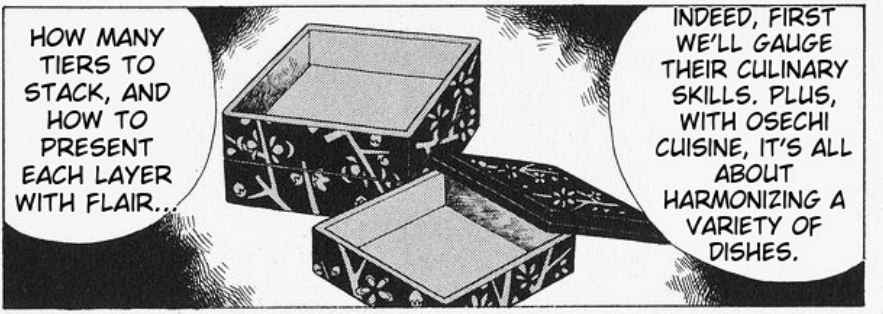
2


MR. OHARA, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK REGARDING THAT.
HUH?

OH, THANK YOU...

PARDON ME...
ACTUALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN QUITE A FEW MARRIAGE PROPOSALS FOR WAKA YOSHIBA,
IN THE END, THREE POTENTIAL BRIDES HAVE MADE THE FINAL CUT.
OH MY...
3
I'M JUST SO TORN BETWEEN ALL THESE CHOICES...
SO I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU, MR. OHARA, TO HELP ME DECIDE WHO WOULD BE THE BEST MATCH.
ONE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, AND THE OTHER IS FROM A PRESTIGIOUS RYOTEI (TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT).
ALL THREE ARE LOVELY DAUGHTERS FROM RESPECTABLE FAMILIES, MAKING IT INCREDIBLY TOUGH TO CHOOSE.
NOW THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE!
THE THIRD CANDIDATE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A LUMBER MERCHANT.

PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME.
OH WOW, THAT'S QUITE THE RESPONSIBILITY
ME?
.....
BUT IT WON'T DO IF THEY JUST HAVE A PRETTY FACE OR CAN PERFORM ARTS.
THE WIFE OF A YOKOZUNA MUST MANAGE THE STABLE WHEN HER HUSBAND RETIRES AND BECOMES A MASTER.
HMM... WHAT CRITERIA SHOULD I USE TO MAKE MY CHOICE...
THE NEW YEAR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER; LET'S SEE HOW WELL THE THREE OF THEM CAN WHIP UP SOME OSECHI CUISINE.
INDEED! I HAVE A BRILLIANT IDEA.
4
OSECHI CUISINE?
THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION AND THE ABILITY TO CARE FOR OTHERS ARE ESSENTIAL.
THEY NEED TO BE SKILLED IN COOKING AS WELL, YOU KNOW...


HOW MANY TIERS TO STACK, AND HOW TO PRESENT EACH LAYER WITH FLAIR...
INDEED, FIRST WE'LL GAUGE THEIR CULINARY SKILLS. PLUS, WITH OSECHI CUISINE, IT'S ALL ABOUT HARMONIZING A VARIETY OF DISHES.

CHOOSING WHO TO PICK, BEYOND THAT, WE HAVE NO OTHER DECIDING FACTOR, SO LET'S GO WITH THAT.
YES, THAT WORKS SPLENDIDLY.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

FROM THAT, YOU CAN GLIMPSE JUST HOW THOUGHTFUL A PERSON REALLY IS.
WELL, SELECTING A BRIDE THROUGH OSECHI CUISINE... WHAT A UNIQUE TWIST!

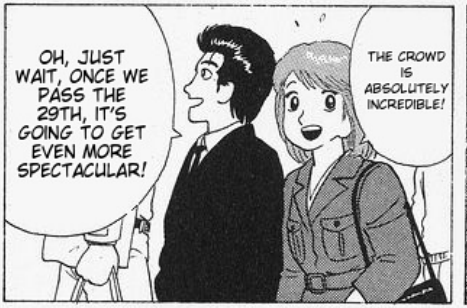
5

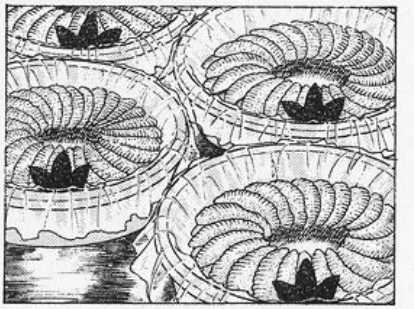
ALRIGHT, LET'S PROMPTLY ASK OUR THREE PROSPECTIVE BRIDES TO WHIP UP SOME OSECHI.

YES, INDEED.

SHE'S BEEN WORKING IN OUR STABLE SINCE AROUND THE TIME I JOINED.
SHE HELPS TAKE CARE OF THE STABLE. SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE LATE CHIKICHI, AND HER NAME IS SUMIKO.
WHO WAS THAT LOVELY LADY WHO BROUGHT IN THE TEA JUST A MOMENT AGO?
AH, SO HER NAME IS SUMIKO...
SHE'S NOT IN A POSITION TO BECOME A YOKOZUNA'S WIFE.
HER MOTHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, SO WE TOOK HER IN AS SHE HAD NO OTHER FAMILY.
WHOA...
ISN'T SUMIKO A POTENTIAL BRIDE FOR A YOKOZUNA?
6
...
WELL, IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT STATUS, YOU KNOW!

THE KEIKYU CITY YOUTH FEDERAT
THE TSUKIJI OUTER MARKET
さかな
銀泉
かんぴょう


OH, JUST WAIT, ONCE WE PASS THE 29TH, IT'S GOING TO GET EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR!
THE CROWD IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!



7

豆問屋
小川商店

ISN'T THAT SUMIKO-SAN FROM TAKABEYA?!
OH, LOOK AT THAT PERSON OVER THERE,

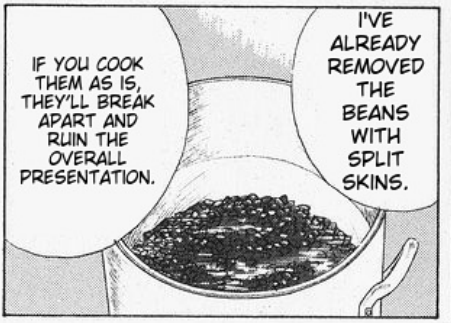
BLACK BEANS? AH, YOU MEAN FOR NEW YEAR'S DISHES?
YES!
BUT IT NEVER SEEMS TO GO RIGHT FOR ME...
OH, IT'S SOMEONE FROM THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER...
HELLO THERE, ARE YOU OUT SHOPPING?
MY BEANS HAVE WRINKLED UP AND TURNED ALL GRITTY... THEY JUST WON'T COME OUT PLUMP, SHINY, AND BURSTING WITH JUICY SOFTNESS!
丹波黒豆
I'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THIS TASK BY THE LANDLADY FOR THREE YEARS NOW, BUT I FLOPPED LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE TOO.

8

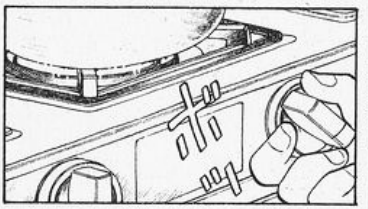
HEY, DAMN IT!
OH MY!
HE'S A LAZY EMPLOYEE, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD, HE'S GOT ALL THE KNOWLEDGE!
HMM... COOKING BLACK BEANS IS QUITE THE CHALLENGE, ISN'T IT?
YOU COOK?
IF YOU'D LIKE, I COULD SHARE SOME TIPS WITH YOU.

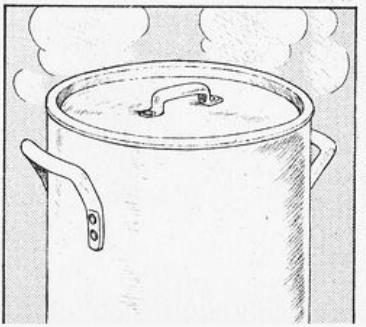
HERE ARE THE BLACK SOYBEANS WE COLLECTED YESTERDAY; I'VE SOAKED THEM IN WATER OVERNIGHT.

岡星

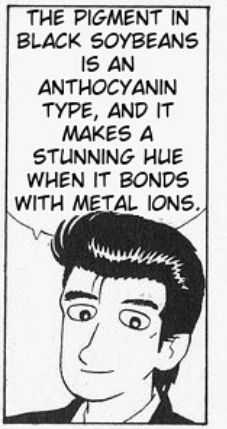

I'VE ALREADY REMOVED THE BEANS WITH SPLIT SKINS.
IF YOU COOK THEM AS IS, THEY'LL BREAK APART AND RUIN THE OVERALL PRESENTATION.

ALRIGHT, SUMIKO-SAN, PLEASE COME BY FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS STARTING TODAY!
YES, I LOOK FORWARD TO IT!



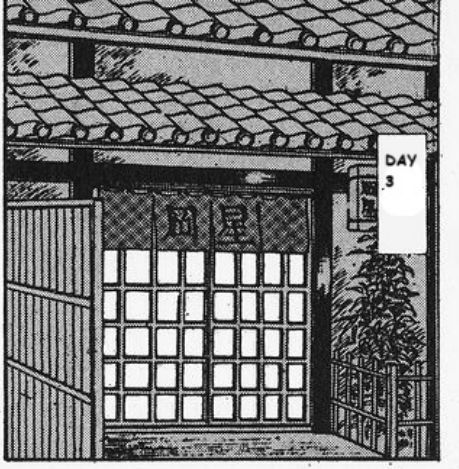


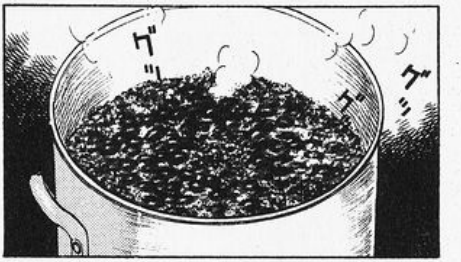
SO, WHETHER YOU STEW IT IN A CAST IRON POT OR SIMMER IT WITH NAILS, IT'LL TURN OUT BEAUTIFULLY COLORED.

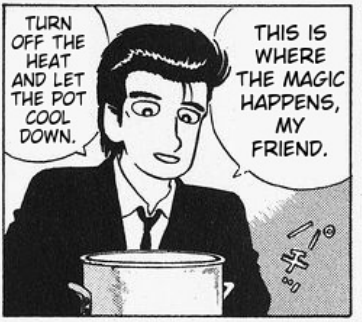

THE PIGMENT IN BLACK SOYBEANS IS AN ANTHOCYANIN TYPE, AND IT MAKES A STUNNING HUE WHEN IT BONDS WITH METAL IONS.

WHEN YOU POUR IN COLD WATER, THE SKIN TRIES TO SHRINK, AND THAT'S WHAT SMOOTHS OUT THE WRINKLES.
BLACK BEANS HAVE A TOUGH CENTER, SO WHEN BOILED, THE SKIN PUFFS UP FIRST, CAUSING THOSE PESKY WRINKLES.
WE CALL IT SURPRISE WATER!
AFTER ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES, WHEN IT STARTS TO BUBBLE, THAT'S WHEN YOU ADD THE WATER.
SURPRISE WATER!?
OH MY! SO THAT'S THE SECRET TO MAKING THE BEANS PLUMP WITHOUT ANY WRINKLES!
I'M READY FOR WHATEVER CHAOS COMES OUR WAY.
AND TOMORROW, IT'S BACK TO THE BOILING GAME!
I'LL SIMMER THEM GENTLY ALL NIGHT LONG.
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON FOR THOSE WRINKLES, BUT LET'S SAVE THAT FOR LATER.
10
ABSOLUTELY! I'M ON IT!
SO NOW YOU'RE A DEDICATED CORPORATE WARRIOR?!
AFTER ALL, WE STILL HAVE OUR DAY JOBS TO THINK ABOUT!
LET'S HAVE THE MASTER OF OKABOSHI WATCH OVER THE POT UNTIL EVENING.

HOW'S THE COOKING CONSISTENCY LOOKING?
AH, LOOK AT THAT! THEY'VE PUFFED UP BEAUTIFULLY AND THE COLOR IS JUST PERFECT!

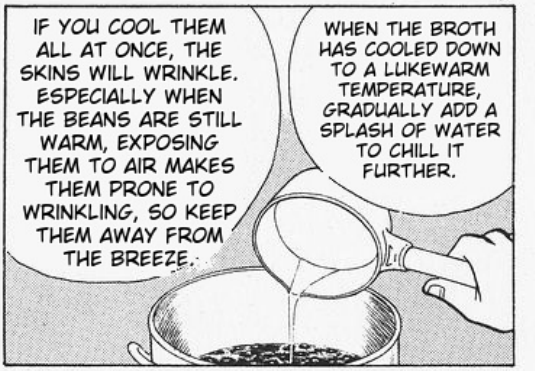

DAY 3




TURN OFF THE HEAT AND LET THE POT COOL DOWN.
THIS IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS, MY FRIEND.

IF THE SKINS COLLAPSE JUST LIKE THIS, THEN THE COOKING IS SPOT ON...

11

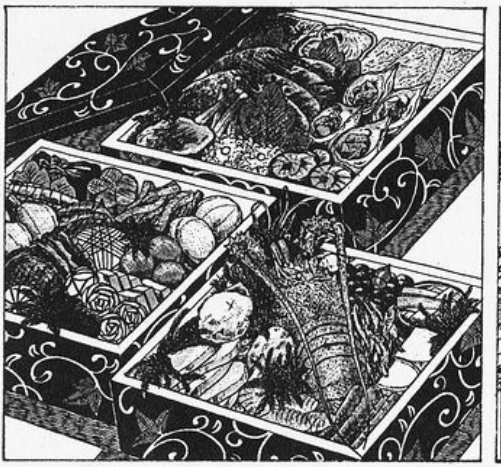

IF YOU COOL THEM ALL AT ONCE, THE SKINS WILL WRINKLE. ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BEANS ARE STILL WARM, EXPOSING THEM TO AIR MAKES THEM PRONE TO WRINKLING, SO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE BREEZE.
WHEN THE BROTH HAS COOLED DOWN TO A LUKEWARM TEMPERATURE, GRADUALLY ADD A SPLASH OF WATER TO CHILL IT FURTHER.

SO, YOU GRADUALLY INCREASE THE SYRUP'S CONCENTRATION AS YOU SOAK THEM.
IF YOU DUNK THEM STRAIGHT INTO A RICH SYRUP, THE PRESSURE WILL DRAW MOISTURE OUT FROM THE BEANS, CAUSING THEIR SKINS TO CRINKLE.
AND NOW, IT'S TIME FOR THE SYRUP BATH,
IN THE REALM OF OSECHI CUISINE, BLACK BEANS MAY SEEM A HUMBLE PRESENCE, YET THEY ARE INFUSED WITH SO MUCH HEART FROM THE MAKER, IT'S TRULY REMARKABLE.
I WAS ASTONISHED TO DISCOVER THAT CRAFTING THESE GLOSSY, PLUMP BLACK BEANS IS SUCH A LABOR-INTENSIVE ART...
AND ON THE FINAL DAY, THEY SOAK IN THE SWEET SYRUP TO CREATE THE PERFECT FINISH.
WHO KNEW THAT INFUSING THEM WITH SWEETNESS COULD REQUIRE SO MUCH METICULOUS EFFORT...

12

AT LAST, THEY'RE SUBMERGED IN THE SYRUP OF MY DESIRED THICKNESS, BRINGING THEM TO PERFECTION.
ONCE DONE, THEY'LL BE JARRED UP AND TUCKED AWAY IN THE FRIDGE, JUST WAITING TO BE ELEGANTLY ARRANGED IN A TIERED BOX FOR NEW YEAR'S.
DAY FIVE-

THE YOKOZUNA IS SET TO MARRY AND LEAVE THE STABLE EARLY NEXT YEAR.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST CHANCE FOR YOU TO TASTE MY NEW YEAR'S FEAST.
WITH THIS, I CAN BRING JOY TO THE YOKOZUNA FOR OUR FINAL NEW YEAR TOGETHER.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MR. YAMAOKA.
IS THIS REALLY THE LAST NEW YEAR?
YOU REALLY LIKE HIM DON'T YOU?
THAT'S JUST...!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH LOVING WHAT YOU LOVE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT, HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT?!
13
IF I WERE TO SAY I LIKE THE YOKOZUNA, I MIGHT JUST INVITE MISFORTUNE!
WELL, I'M JUST HERE IN THE ROOM, YOU KNOW...



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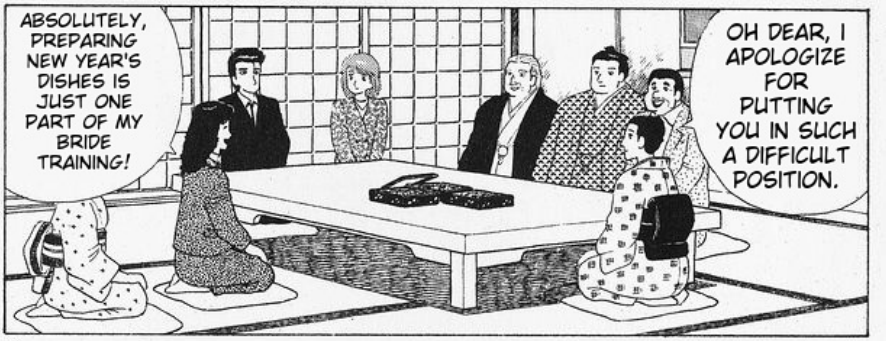

ABSOLUTELY, PREPARING NEW YEAR'S DISHES IS JUST ONE PART OF MY BRIDE TRAINING!
OH DEAR, I APOLOGIZE FOR PUTTING YOU IN SUCH A DIFFICULT POSITION.

14

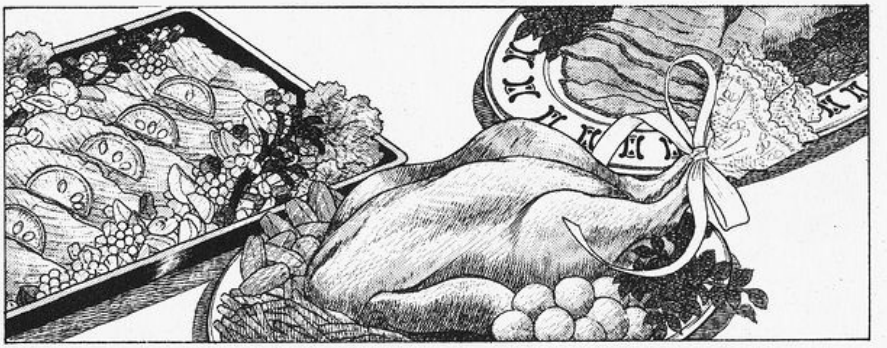
SO I WANT THE YOKOZUNA TO GIVE IT HIS ALL IN THE RING!
YES, NO MATTER WHEN THE YOKOZUNA CHOOSES TO RETIRE, MY FATHER WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO SUPPORT HIM.

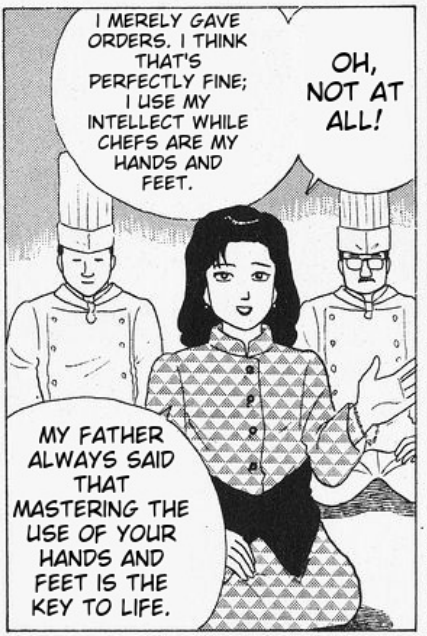
HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE MINDSET OF BECOMING A SUMO WRESTLER'S WIFE?

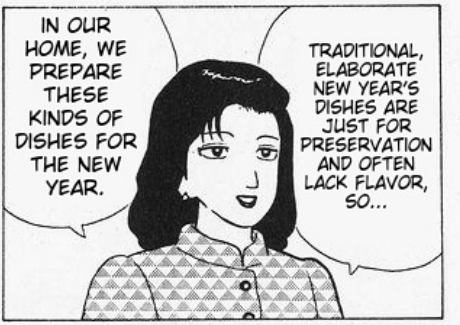
WILL THE YOKOZUNA FIND ME TO HIS LIKING?

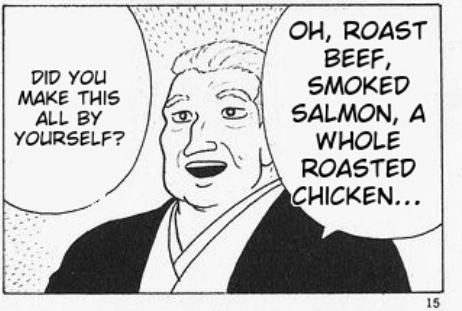
THAT'S A BIT OF A JUMBLE!

DELICIOUS!









15

I ASKED OUR CULINARY MASTER TO RECREATE AN EXTRAVAGANT NEW YEAR'S MEAL FIT FOR THE SAMURAI LORDS OF THE EDO PERIOD.

A SAVVY POLITICIAN, MANAGED TO PULL SOME STRINGS AND SECURE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION.
CRANE MEAT IS GENERALLY FORBIDDEN, BUT MY FATHER,

BEHOLD, THE FRAGRANT ROASTED CRANE THIGH AND SUCCULENT TURTLE MEAT STEW—A TRULY SPLENDID FEAST, PERFECTLY SUITED FOR A GRAND CHAMPION LIKE A YOKOZUNA!
THIS DELIGHTFUL SPREAD HAILS FROM THE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF THE SAKE-LOVING HEIKE CLAN, KNOWN AS 'YOKOZUNA: THE SOUND OF WAVES.'

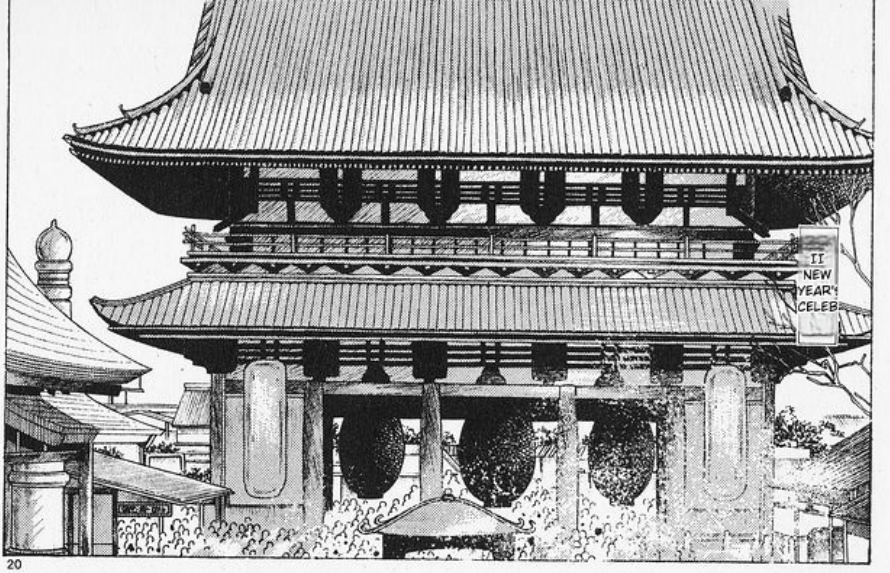
WHAT A FEAST THIS IS!!

16

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 10!

THESE BLACK BEANS ARE STUNNING IN COLOR, PLUMP AND TENDER, AND THEY TASTE ABSOLUTELY DIVINE.
I'VE WATCHED MY MOTHER COOK BEANS COUNTLESS TIMES, SO I KNOW JUST HOW TRICKY IT IS TO MAKE THEM DELICIOUS.
I BELIEVE OUR NEW YEAR'S BLACK BEANS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
HUH?!
IT'S A HUMBLE DISH, BUT IT'S THE WOMAN WHO CAN COOK BEANS THIS WELL THAT I TRULY WANT AS MY WIFE.
MASTER!! PLEASE, I BEG YOU, LET ME MARRY SUMIKO!!
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
18
W-WHAT?!
YOU, WHO PEAKED AT SEKIWAKE IN YOUR HEYDAY, ARE PUFFING UP IN FRONT OF YOKOZUNA WAKA-YOSHIBA!
WHAT'S WITH YOUR PRIDE!
ARE YOU TRYING TO CRUSH MY PRIDE?!
DON'T JOKE AROUND!! AFTER I'VE LINED UP THREE LOVELY LADIES FROM GOOD FAMILIES AS POTENTIAL BRIDES...!!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 10!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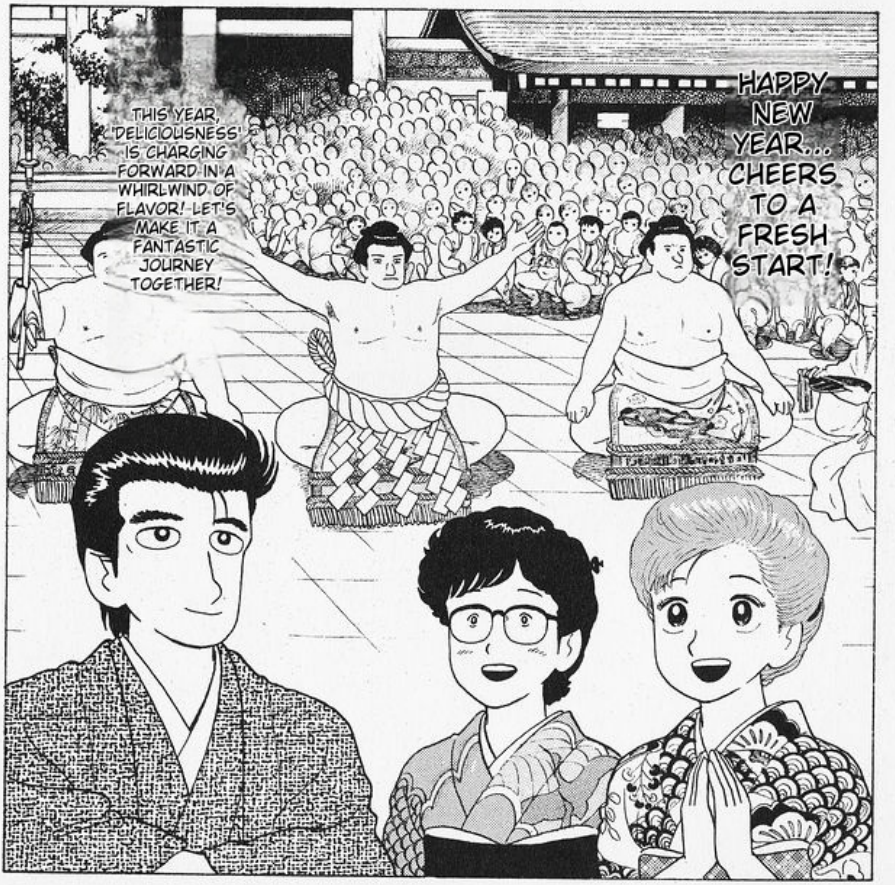
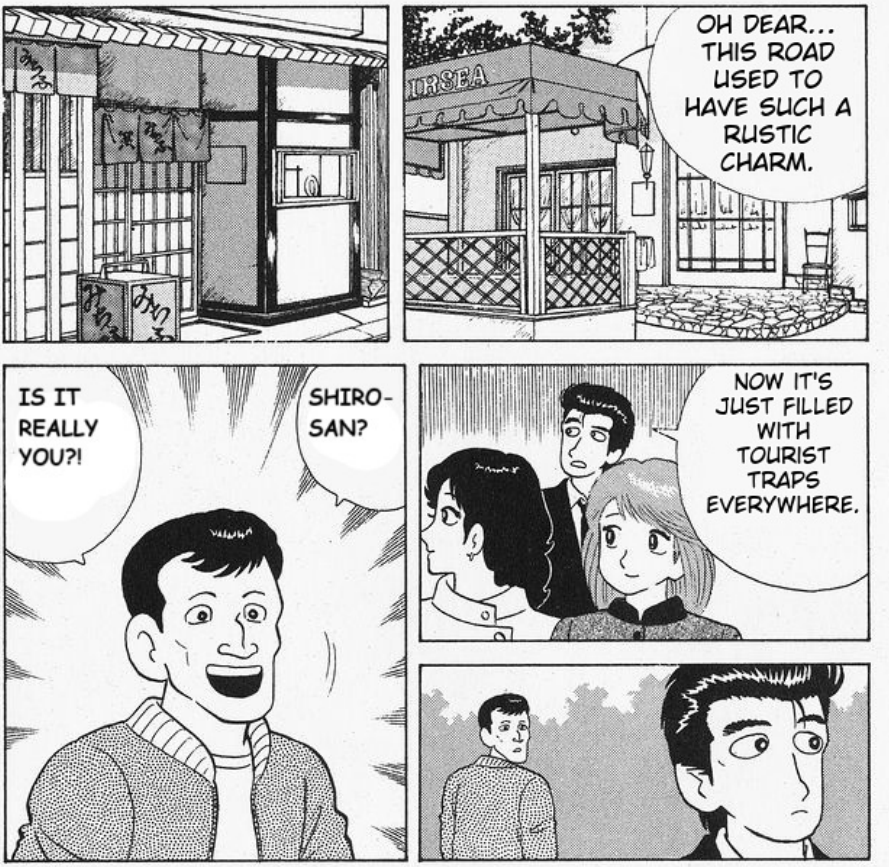

THIS YEAR, 'DELICIOUSNESS' IS CHARGING FORWARD IN A WHIRLWIND OF FLAVOR! LET'S MAKE IT A FANTASTIC JOURNEY TOGETHER!
HAPPY NEW YEAR... CHEERS TO A FRESH START!

第6話
根気と山芋

TODAY, I PAID A NEW YEAR'S VISIT TO DIRECTOR TANIMURA'S HOME IN KAMAKURA.
SINCE I'M OUT AND ABOUT, I DECIDED TO STOP BY DAITŌMIYA AND THEN SWING BY HANSUIJI.
I WONDER IF THE DAFFODILS HAVE BLOOMED YET?
THE DAFFODILS AT HANSUIJI ARE ABSOLUTELY WORTH SEEING!
I THINK I'LL HEAD HOME EARLY FOR SOME MUCH-NEEDED REST.
THERE'S NO JOY QUITE LIKE THE BLISS OF SLUMBER IN THIS WORLD, WHILE FOOLISH SOULS TOIL AND LABOR AWAKE.
NO SLACKING OFF RIGHT AT THE START OF THE YEAR!

2

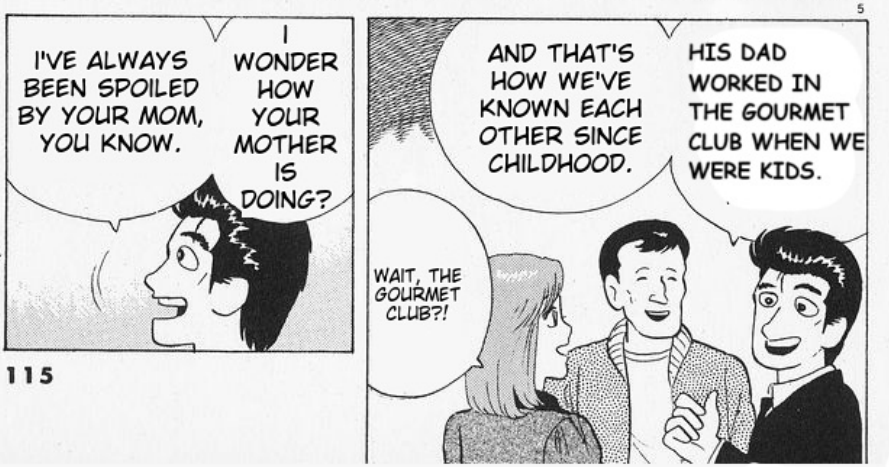
DELICIOUS!


OH DEAR... THIS ROAD USED TO HAVE SUCH A RUSTIC CHARM.
IS IT REALLY YOU?!
SHIRO-SAN?
NOW IT'S JUST FILLED WITH TOURIST TRAPS EVERYWHERE.
3
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'M SO SURPRISED! HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?!
INDEED! YOU REMEMBER ME, IT'S KAZUO OSATO.
HUH... COULD IT BE KAZUO-SAN?
?

I'VE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF AND GONE STRAIGHT.
N-NO, IT'S FINE.
WHOA, THAT'S A BIT SCARY!
WITH THE YAKUZA?
WELL, WELL, I HEARD A RUMOR THAT YOU'VE GONE TO KANSAI AND ARE RUNNING WITH THE YAKUZA...?
OH REALLY? SO YOU'VE OPENED A SHOP, HUH?
ACTUALLY, I JUST OPENED A LITTLE SHOP NEARBY. WOULD YOU CARE TO STOP BY FOR A VISIT?
HMM, I MIGHT JUST TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.
IT'S JUST A HUMBLE LITTLE PLACE, NOTHING GRAND...
4
鎌倉の味
ひらい

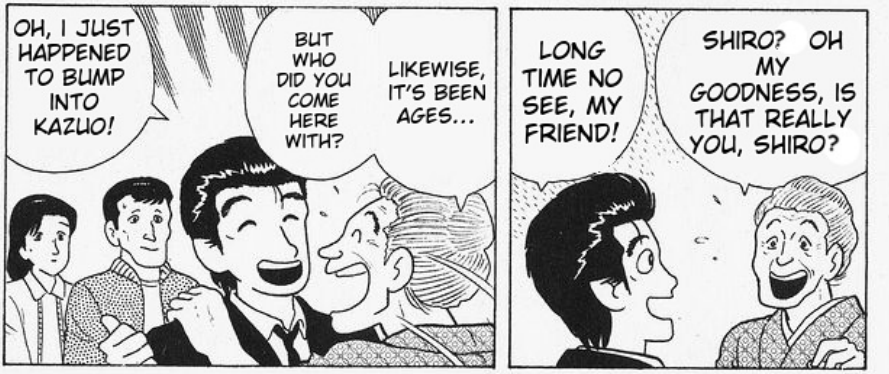
I CAN'T SAY IT'S EXACTLY THRIVING, CAN I?
YES, WE JUST OPENED OUR DOORS LAST YEAR, YOU KNOW,
STILL, BEING TUCKED AWAY IN AN ALLEY IS QUITE THE DISADVANTAGE...
I'M YAMAOKA. THESE ARE MY COLLEAGUES, KURITA, TABATA, AND HANAMURA.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
HELLO THERE!
THIS IS MY WIFE, TOMOE.
WELCOME!

5


I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SPOILED BY YOUR MOM, YOU KNOW.
I WONDER HOW YOUR MOTHER IS DOING?
AND THAT'S HOW WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE CHILDHOOD.
HIS DAD WORKED IN THE GOURMET CLUB WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
WAIT, THE GOURMET CLUB?!

I'M SURE MY MOTHER WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO SEE YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YES, AFTER MY FATHER PASSED, MY MOTHER HAS BEEN LIVING HERE IN YUKINOSHITA, KAMAKURA.
OH REALLY! LET'S STOP BY AND SAY HELLO ON THE WAY BACK.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE UNIQUE DISH THAT SETS THIS PLACE APART.
WELL, SURE, IT MIGHT BE TASTY, BUT THE MENU IS PRETTY ORDINARY, ISN'T IT?
...BUT HONESTLY, IF THERE AREN'T MORE CUSTOMERS, ISN'T THAT A PROBLEM?
I GENUINELY BELIEVE THE OWNER HAS TALENT, AND I'M NOT JUST BEING BIASED...
6
I'M TRYING TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT TOO, BUT...
Y-YES....

THE GOURMET DUO IS BACK!



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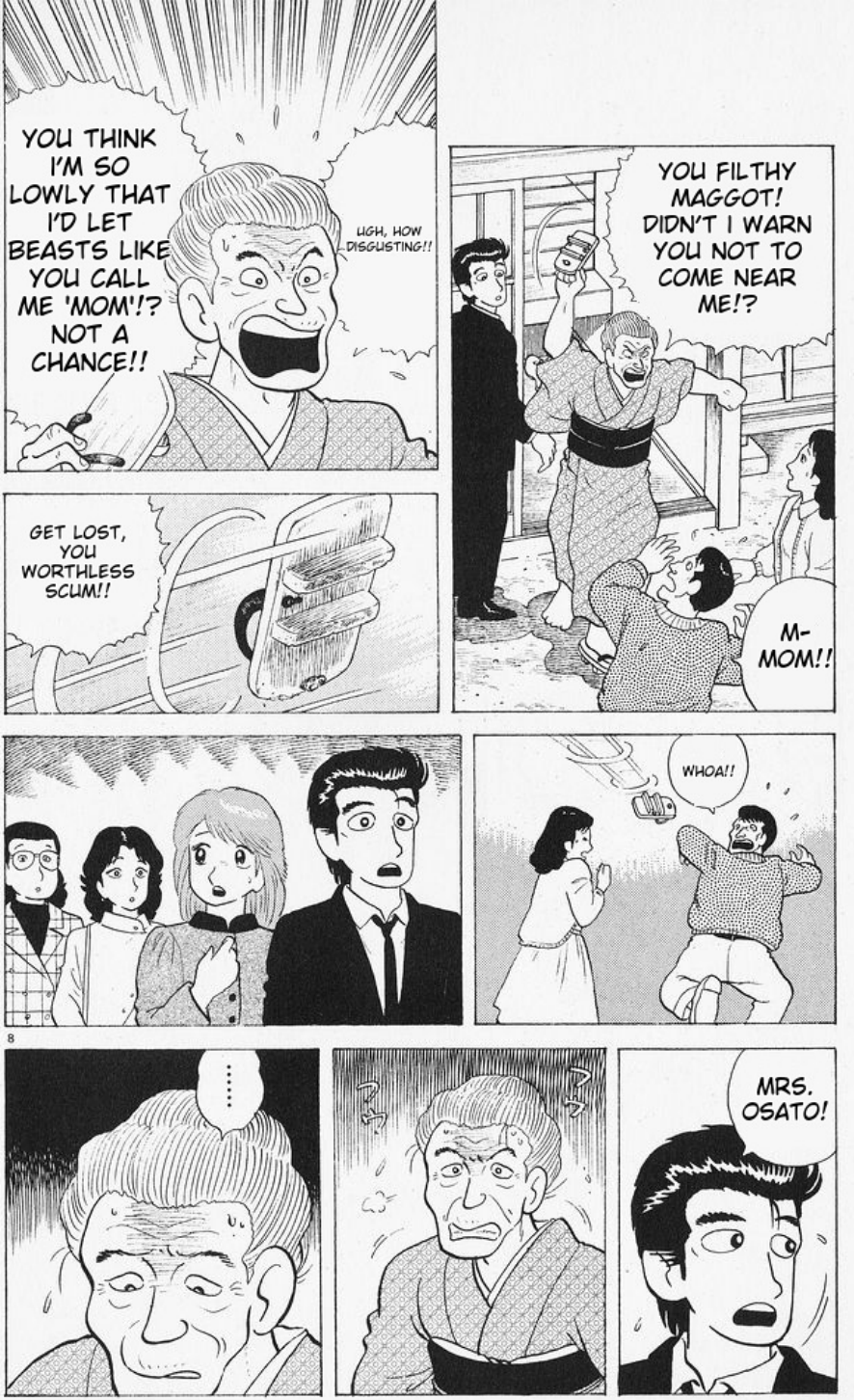
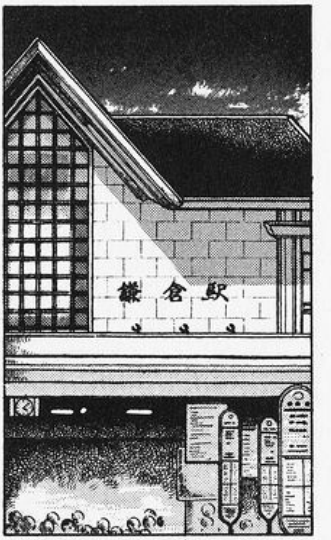

YOU THINK I'M SO LOWLY THAT I'D LET BEASTS LIKE YOU CALL ME 'MOM'!? NOT A CHANCE!!
UGH, HOW DISGUSTING!!
YOU FILTHY MAGGOT! DIDN'T I WARN YOU NOT TO COME NEAR ME!?
M-MOM!!
GET LOST, YOU WORTHLESS SCUM!!
WHOA!!
8
.....
MRS. OSATO!

STARTED GOING DOWN THE WRONG PATH BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND BY THE TIME HE HIT HIGH SCHOOL, HE WAS ALREADY HANGING OUT AT A YAKUZA OFFICE.
WHY DID YOU BRING HIM, SHIRO? YOU KNOW HE'S NO GOOD.
THANKS TO THAT LOUSY GUY, BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE ENDURED SO MUCH SUFFERING...
IT WAS TRULY A LIVING HELL.
HE'D EVEN HIT MY HUSBAND WHEN HE REFUSED TO HAND OVER CASH...
NOT ONLY DID HE TAKE OUR MONEY, BUT HE ALSO SOLD OFF OUR VALUABLES...
9
MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY YOUNG, AND IT WAS ALL BECAUSE I WORRIED TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT LOUSY GUY...
EVENTUALLY, HE JUST VANISHED, CLAIMING HE WAS HEADING TO KANSAI.
THE POLICE SAID HE WAS DOING DEALS WITH YAKUZA IN KANSAI...

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW TOUGH IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR OSATO. I TRULY GET IT.
I'VE HEARD MY FAIR SHARE OF THE BAD RUMORS ABOUT KAZUO, TOO.
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW FURIOUS THAT MADE ME!
THEN LAST YEAR, THAT VERY KAZUO POPS UP OUT OF NOWHERE, CLAIMING HE'S GONE STRAIGHT.
I TOLD HIM, 'WE'RE NEITHER FAMILY NOR FRIENDS, SO DON'T YOU DARE COME NEAR ME AGAIN!'
KAZUO HAS SWORN COUNTLESS TIMES THAT HE'LL BECOME A DECENT HUMAN BEING. BUT HAS HE EVER KEPT A SINGLE PROMISE?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT KIND OF THING IS TRUSTWORTHY?
BUT, YOU KNOW, KAZUO SEEMS TO HAVE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF. HE AND HIS WIFE OPENED A LITTLE RESTAURANT TOGETHER AND ARE WORKING THEIR TAILS OFF...
10
THAT GUY HAS ABSOLUTELY NO GRIT! HE CAN'T ENDURE ANYTHING, AND HE DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF HARD WORK OR PATIENCE!
THAT KIND OF HUMAN TRASH? THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING HIM ANYWHERE NEAR ME!
I WILL NEVER BE DECEIVED BY HIM AGAIN!

I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE SHOWING MY FACE IN FRONT OF MY MOTHER AT THIS HOUR.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR HER NOT TO FORGIVE ME.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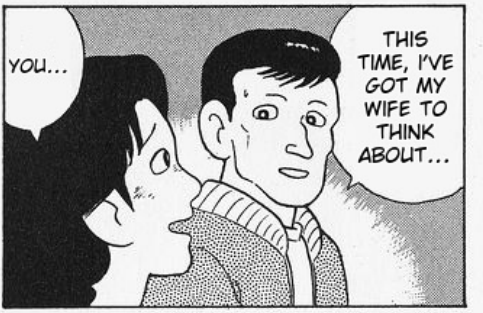
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
I REALLY HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THIS TIME TO BECOME A TRUE HUMAN BEING.

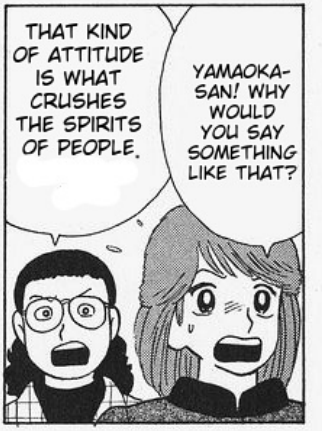
GIVEN THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN, IT'S NO SURPRISE.
BUT YOU KNOW, EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...


YOU...
THIS TIME, I'VE GOT MY WIFE TO THINK ABOUT...

11

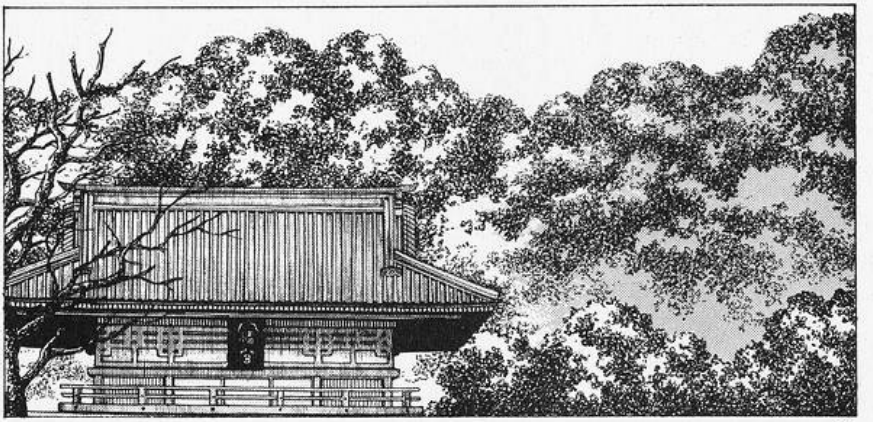
P-PLEASE DON'T FIGHT OVER ME!
DAMN IT!

W-WHAT THE HECK?!
YOU'RE JUST AS SHADY YOURSELF, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!


THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE IS WHAT CRUSHES THE SPIRITS OF PEOPLE.
YAMAOKA-SAN! WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

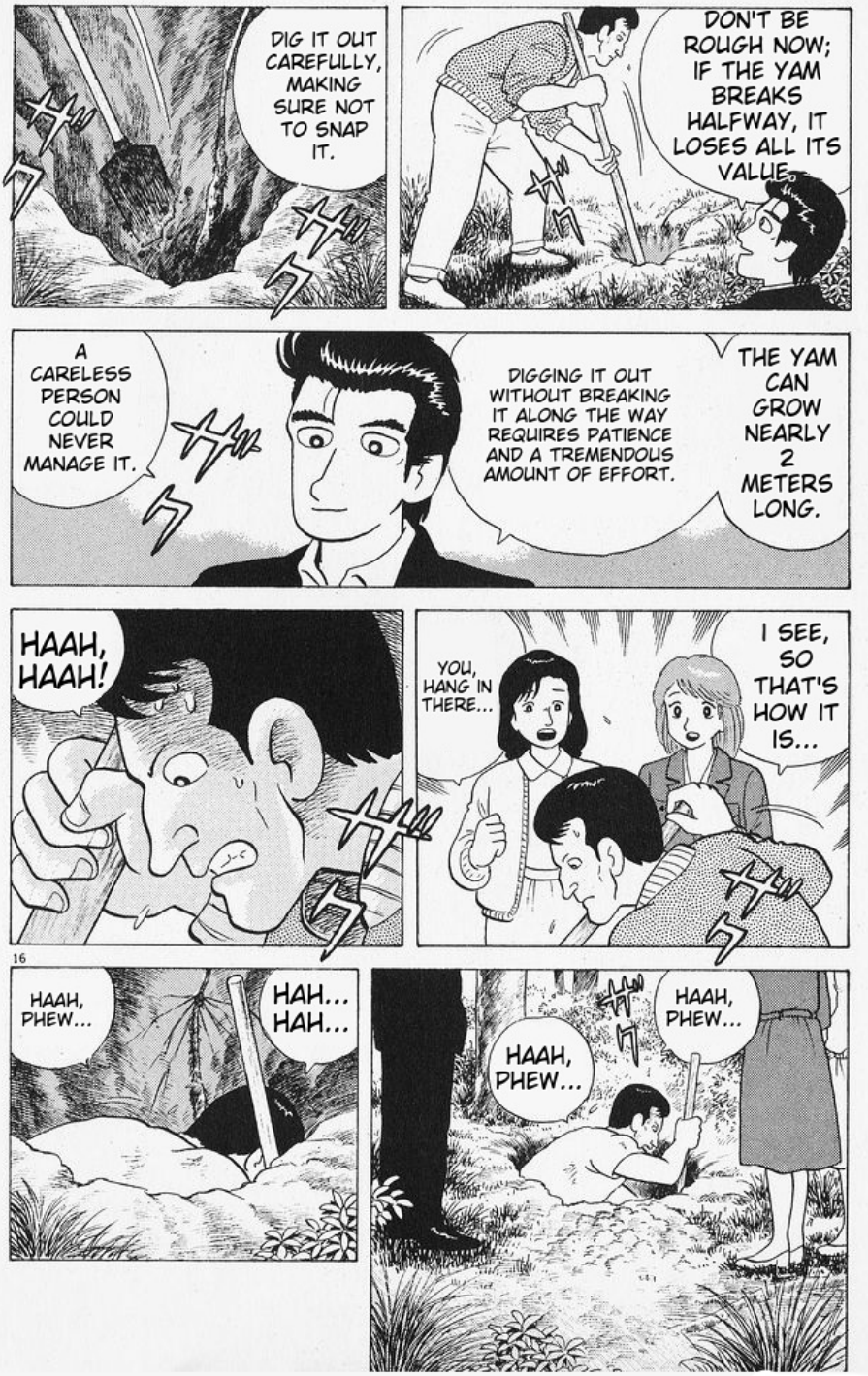
ONE DAY, I HOPE TO INVITE MY DEAR MOTHER TO MY OWN RESTAURANT AND TREAT HER TO HER FAVORITE TORORO SOUP.
TO WIN YOUR MOTHER'S APPROVAL, YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW YOUR SINCERITY THIS TIME...
YES!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, OSATO WAS ALWAYS A WHIZ AT MAKING TORORO.
TORORO SOUP, HUH...
TORORO, YOU SAY? WHAT A TREASURE TROVE KAMAKURA IS!
HUH?
A WHAT?
AH, MY MOTHER'S TORORO WAS SIMPLY DIVINE.
12
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?
WHAT? A MENU ITEM THAT COULD ACTUALLY SELL?!
I'VE COME UP WITH A MENU ITEM THAT COULD BE A REAL HIT AT YOUR PLACE!
COMING OVER?
CLEAR YOUR SCHEDULE FOR THIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON; I'M COMING OVER!

DELICIOUS!



THIS MOUNTAIN IS THE MOUNTAIN OF TREASURES.
DON'T SAY THAT,
I REALLY HATE KAMAKURA... IT'S ALL MOUNTAINS EVERYWHERE.
UGH...
THERE'S NOTHING HERE THOUGH...
WHAT ABOUT THIS PLACE?
SO WHERE'S THIS TREASURE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
RIGHT HERE.
14
ALRIGHT, THIS IS IT!
ガラ
WELL, JUST WATCH AND SEE.
WHAT? HOW IS THIS WITHERED VINE A TREASURE?
THIS RIGHT HERE.

I FOUND IT!
TREASURE? YOU MEAN LIKE YAM?
YAM?
IT'S YAM.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?
15
HAH, PHEW!
WELL, JUST HOLD ON!
YAM? HOW ON EARTH IS THAT A TREASURE?
OH, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
SHIRO, I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO!!!


DIG IT OUT CAREFULLY, MAKING SURE NOT TO SNAP IT.
DON'T BE ROUGH NOW; IF THE YAM BREAKS HALFWAY, IT LOSES ALL ITS VALUE.
A CARELESS PERSON COULD NEVER MANAGE IT.
DIGGING IT OUT WITHOUT BREAKING IT ALONG THE WAY REQUIRES PATIENCE AND A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF EFFORT.
THE YAM CAN GROW NEARLY 2 METERS LONG.
HAAH, HAAH!
YOU, HANG IN THERE...
I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
HAAH, PHEW...
HAH... HAH...
HAAH, PHEW...
HAAH, PHEW...

WOW, AMAZING!! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LONG YAM BEFORE!!

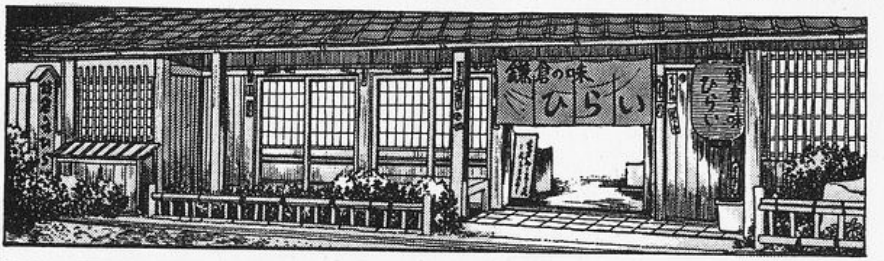
PULL IT OUT FOR ME!
HUFF HUFF, WE DID IT!

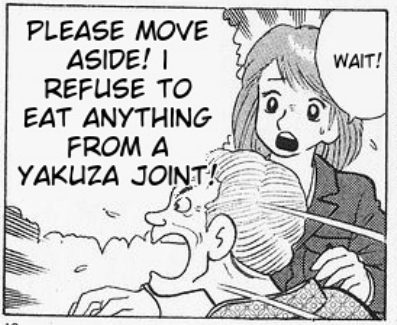
SHIROU-SAN!

HAH, PHEW!
WOW!
KAZUO-SAN, I'VE WITNESSED YOUR TENACITY FIRSTHAND!

WITH THIS, WE CAN MAKE THE ULTIMATE TORORO SOUP!
THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE NATURAL YAM.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, SHIRO, IT MUST BE TRUE!
BUT THIS IS THE FINEST TORORO; EVEN OSATO-SAN WOULD BE BLOWN AWAY BY ITS DELICIOUSNESS!
I'M SO EXCITED!
I ABSOLUTELY ADORE TORORO!
OH, HOW DELIGHTFUL!

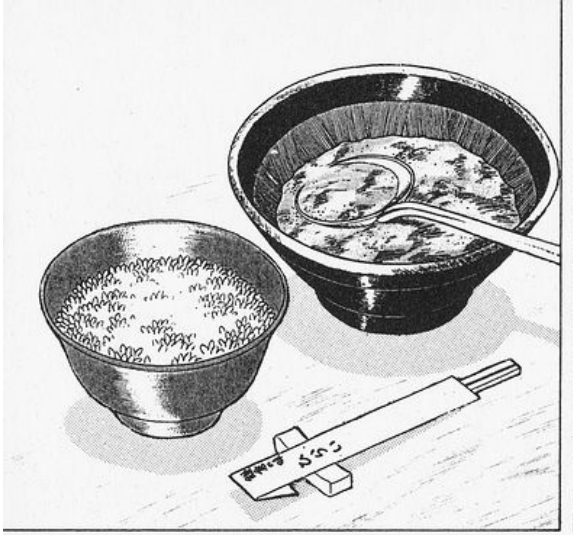

鎌倉の味
ひらい

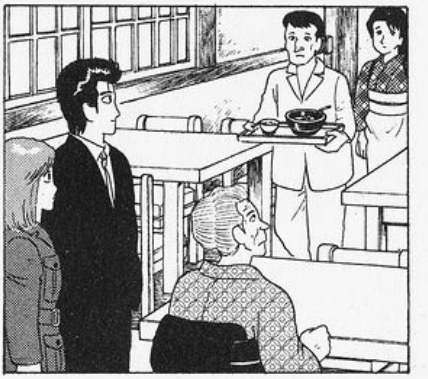

PLEASE MOVE ASIDE! I REFUSE TO EAT ANYTHING FROM A YAKUZA JOINT!
WAIT!

WELCOME!
WELCOME

……

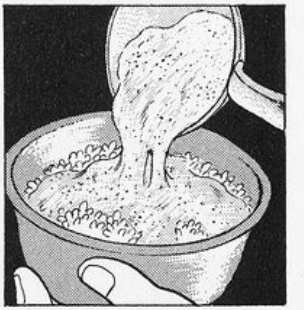
SO FOR THAT CHERISHED MEMORY, CAN YOU PLEASE JUST TRY THE TORORO HERE, JUST ONCE?
OSATO-SAN, YOU'VE ALWAYS TREATED ME LIKE YOUR OWN CHILD,





THIS IS NOTHING LIKE THE YAM OR NAGAIMO YOU FIND AROUND HERE.
OH MY, WHAT A FRAGRANCE.

PLEASE, DO DIG IN!



OH, THIS FLAVOR! IT'S SO RICH AND ROBUST, EXPANDING BEAUTIFULLY IN MY MOUTH, YET FINISHING WITH A REFRESHING AFTERTASTE...
THAT TINGLING SENSATION ON MY TONGUE AND LIPS IS JUST IRRESISTIBLE, IT'S SO DELIGHTFUL!
AND THAT TEXTURE...

OH YES, IT'S NATURAL YAM! THE AROMA OF NATURAL YAM!

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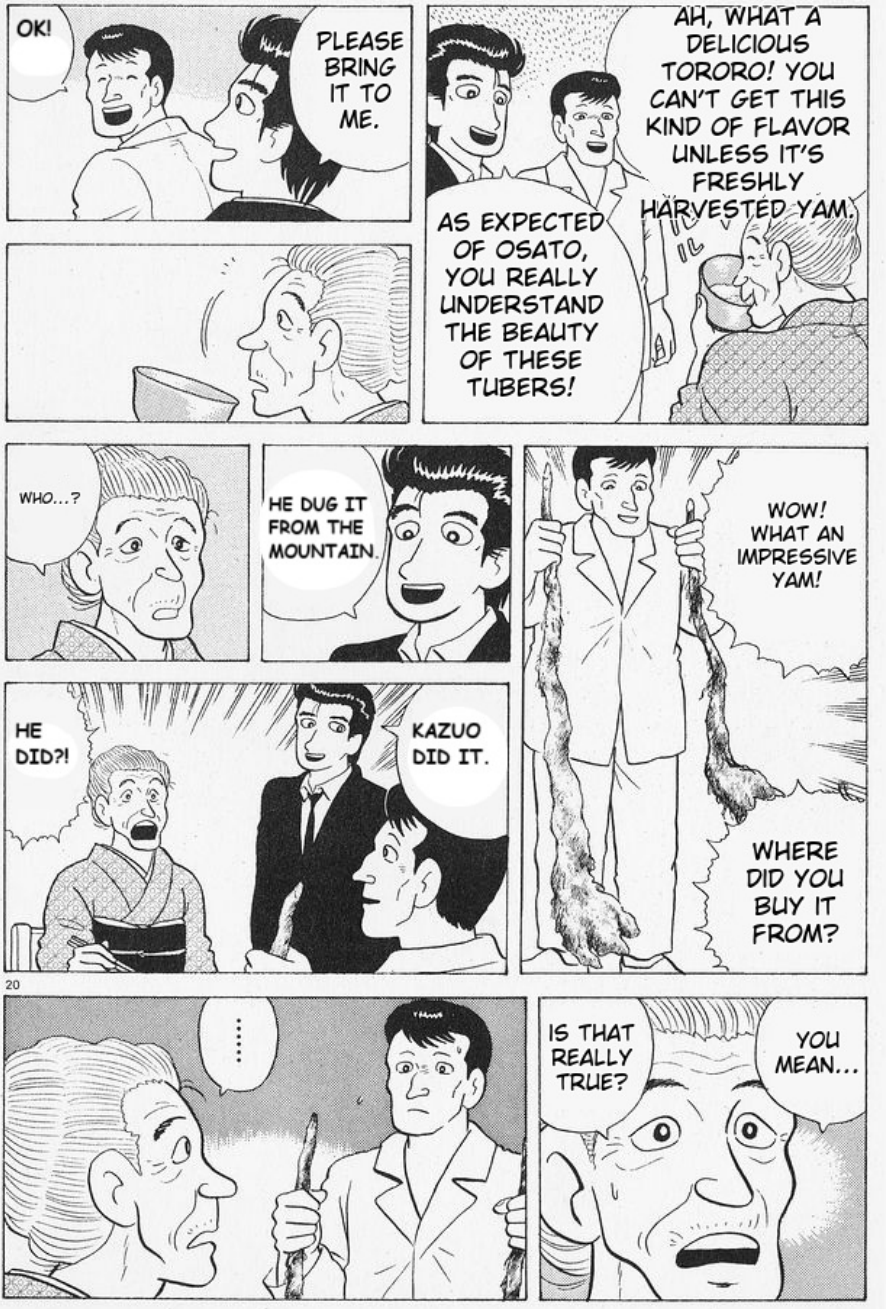
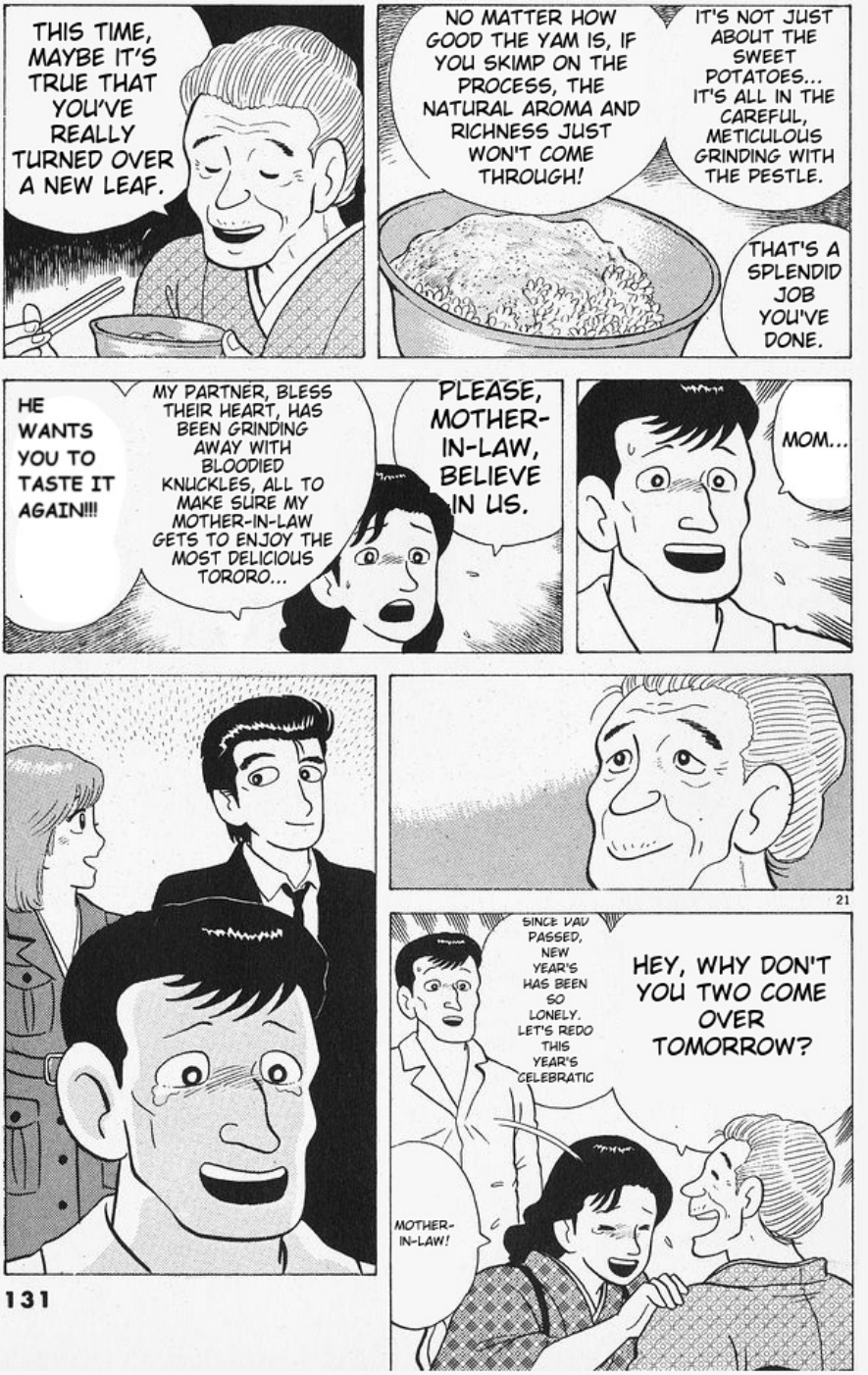
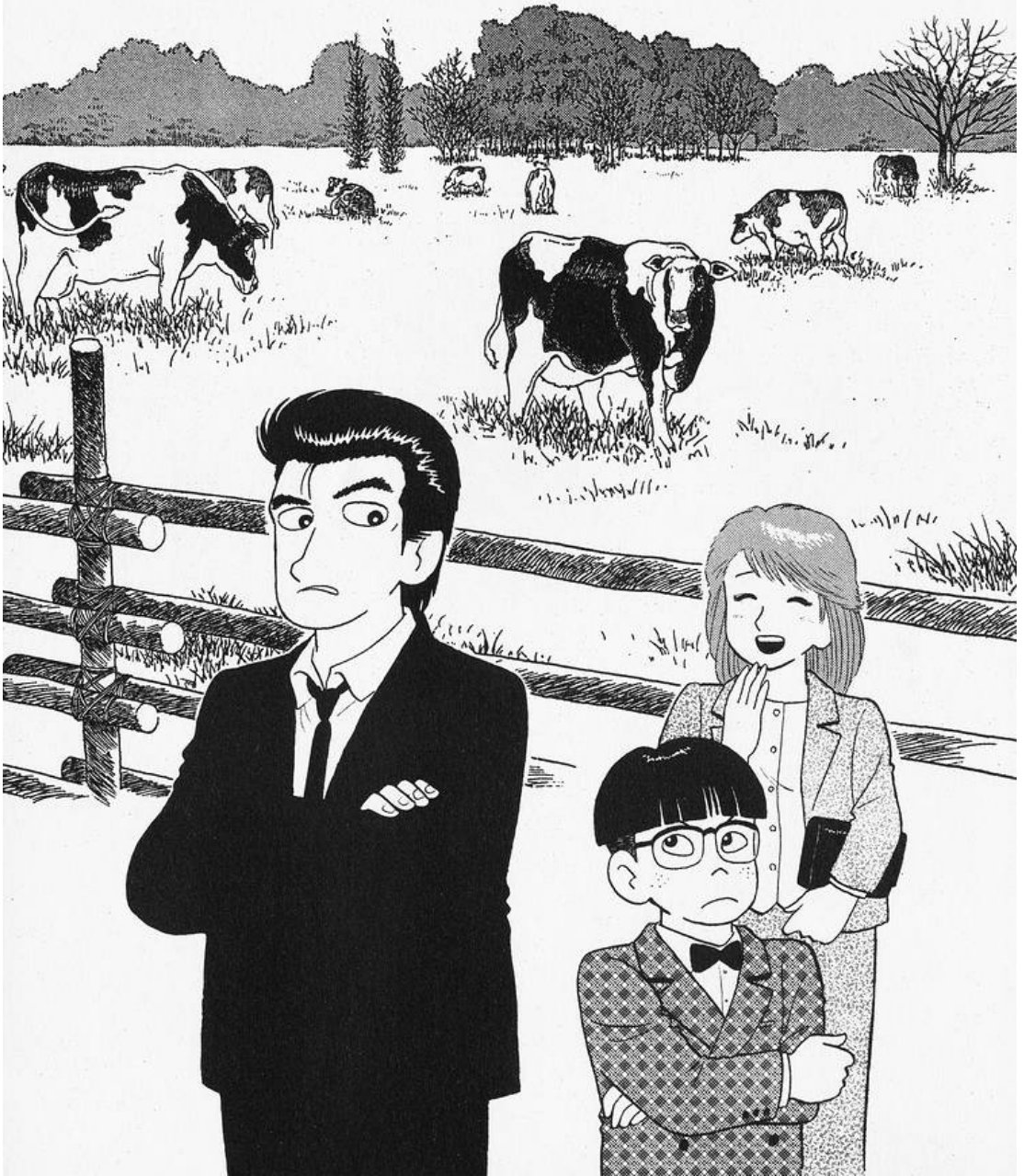

OK!
PLEASE BRING IT TO ME.
AH, WHAT A DELICIOUS TORORO! YOU CAN'T GET THIS KIND OF FLAVOR UNLESS IT'S FRESHLY HARVESTED YAM.
AS EXPECTED OF OSATO, YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND THE BEAUTY OF THESE TUBERS!
WHO...?
HE DUG IT FROM THE MOUNTAIN.
WOW! WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE YAM!
WHERE DID YOU BUY IT FROM?
HE DID?!
KAZUO DID IT.
20
.....
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
YOU MEAN...

DELICIOUS!


THIS TIME, MAYBE IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'VE REALLY TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE YAM IS, IF YOU SKIMP ON THE PROCESS, THE NATURAL AROMA AND RICHNESS JUST WON'T COME THROUGH!
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE SWEET POTATOES... IT'S ALL IN THE CAREFUL, METICULOUS GRINDING WITH THE PESTLE.
THAT'S A SPLENDID JOB YOU'VE DONE.
HE WANTS YOU TO TASTE IT AGAIN!!!
MY PARTNER, BLESS THEIR HEART, HAS BEEN GRINDING AWAY WITH BLOODIED KNUCKLES, ALL TO MAKE SURE MY MOTHER-IN-LAW GETS TO ENJOY THE MOST DELICIOUS TORORO...
PLEASE, MOTHER-IN-LAW, BELIEVE IN US.
MOM...
21
SINCE DAD PASSED, NEW YEAR'S HAS BEEN SO LONELY. LET'S REDO THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIC
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU TWO COME OVER TOMORROW?
MOTHER-IN-LAW!

TO UNEARTH SUCH A MASSIVE YAM WITHOUT A SINGLE SCRATCH IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE!
OH WOW... THAT'S A REMARKABLE SIGHT!
WELL, THIS WAS CLEARLY DUG UP BY SOMEONE WITHOUT A SHRED OF PATIENCE OR EFFORT, HUH?
AND IN CONTRAST, THIS SIDE IS AN ABSOLUTE DISASTER!
KAZUO-SAN IS A MASTER AT YAM DIGGING!
22
ムス…
WHO ON EARTH DUG OVER HERE...?

第7話 牛乳ぎらい



VICE CHIEF, THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU FROM HOME.
FROM MY WIFE?
TCH! CALLING ME WHILE I'M WORKING!
I'LL GIVE HER WHAT FOR!
HELLO, IT'S ME...
SORRY ABOUT THIS MORNING, I TOTALLY MESSED UP YOUR OMELETTE.
I PROMISE I'LL GET IT RIGHT TOMORROW.
HUH?

HITOSHI IS MISSING FROM SCHOOL, WHAT?!
NO WAYYY!!

TOMII'S SON?
THEY'RE SAYING IT'S A KIDNAPPING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE MIGHT'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED?!
WHAT, A KIDNAPPING!?

AH, THANK YOU SO MUCH.
W-WHAT WOULD SOMEONE WANT WITH A REGULAR OFFICE WORKER'S CHILD LIKE ME...?!

UH, B-BOSS...!!
カ"チ

I JUST HEARD, NO TIME TO WASTE, GET HOME RIGHT AWAY!

YIKES...!!
TOMII-KUN, PLEASE CALM DOWN!
W-WHAT IF THEY DEMAND A RANSOM?! EEK...!!
VICE PRESIDENT, STAY STRONG!!
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
4
W-WAIT, HITOSHI -!!
TOMII-SAN?

YAMAOKA-!! SO IT WAS YOU WHO WAS BEHIND THE KIDNAPPING!!
HUH?

I WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?!
OH WOW, HITOSHI, YOU'RE SAFE AFTER ALL!!

YOU KIDNAPPED MY SON OUT OF REVENGE, DIDN'T YOU?!
HOLD ON A SECOND...
I SEE, YOU PUT YOUR OWN LAZINESS ASIDE AND DECIDED TO HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME FOR SCOLDING YOU,

5

I CAME HERE ALL BY MYSELF.
HITOSHI-KUN, WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?

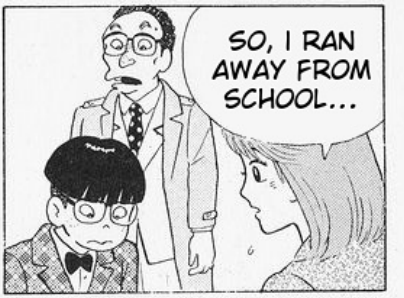
ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE!! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH MY PRECIOUS SON?!
WAIT, WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

HUH?

YIKES, THAT'S QUITE THE BILL!!
CLAIMING TO BE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S KID, SO I COVERED THE TAXI FARE AND BROUGHT HIM ALONG.
WHEN I CAME BACK FROM OUTSIDE, I SAW THIS KID ARGUING WITH THE DRIVER,
HITOSHI... DID YOU REALLY COME ALL ALONE?
WELL, I TOOK A TAXI RIGHT FROM THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.
I HAD TO BORROW IT FROM THE GIRL AT RECEPTION, SO HURRY UP AND GIVE ME THE MONEY SO I CAN PAY IT BACK!!!
I CAN'T STAND MILK.
THAT'S NOT IT.
HEY, HITOSHI-KUN, WHY DID YOU COME TO SCHOOL ALL BY YOURSELF?
BECAUSE I HATE SCHOOL.
IS THERE A BULLY AROUND?
6
AND YET, THE TEACHER YELLS AT ME TO DRINK IT, AND MY MOM DOES TOO!
THEY SERVE MILK WITH LUNCH... AND I ABSOLUTELY LOATHE MILK!
MILK?

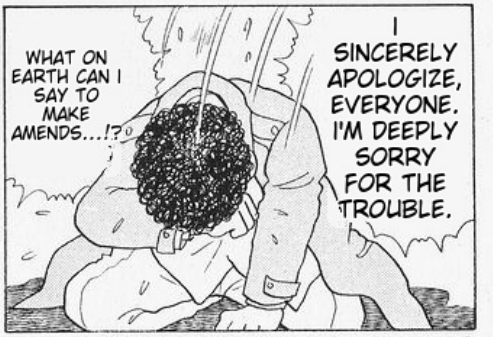
DELICIOUS!

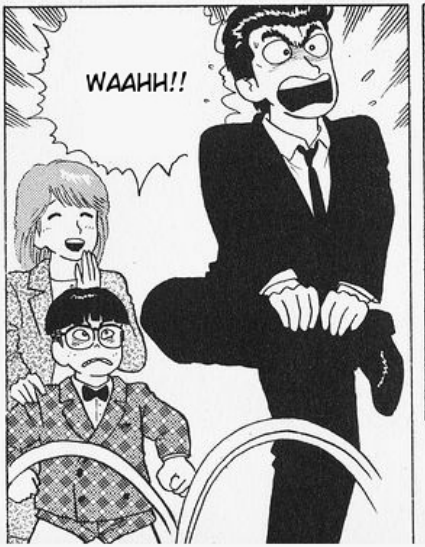
YOU LITTLE FOOL! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A GOOD PUNISHMENT!
BZZZ!!

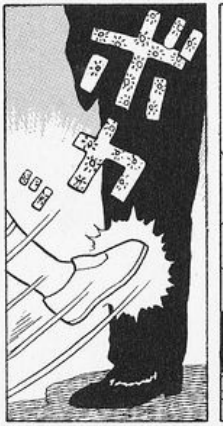

SO, I RAN AWAY FROM SCHOOL...

WHAT A RUCKUS THIS IS...!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS,

WHEN SOMEONE THINKS A CHILD HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED, ANYONE WOULD LOSE THEIR COOL.
TOMII-KUN, ISN'T IT GREAT THAT THE BOY IS SAFE?


WHAT ON EARTH CAN I SAY TO MAKE AMENDS...!?
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE, EVERYONE. I'M DEEPLY SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

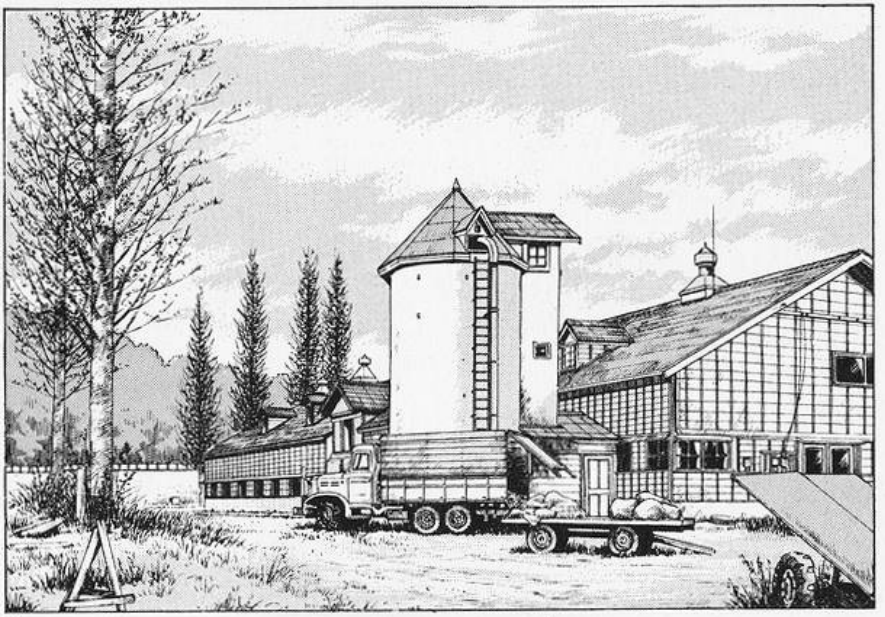

WAAHH!!



KIDNAPPED...? TCH, WHO WOULD TAKE SUCH A BRAT?
!

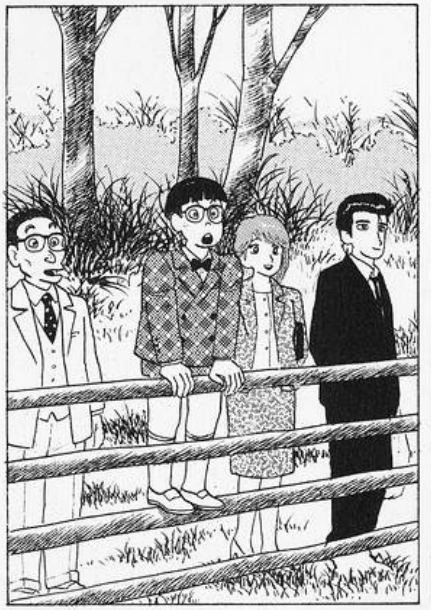
IT'S STINKY AND BITTER, AND IT TASTES ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE!
I'M NEVER GOING TO LIKE IT!
HITOSHI, YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT, BUT IF YOU JUST HANG IN THERE AND DRINK MILK, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY COME TO LIKE IT!
AMERICANS ARE TALL BECAUSE THEY DRINK MILK, YOU KNOW!
IF YOU DON'T DRINK MILK, YOU WON'T GROW BIG!
IT MEANS HE TRUSTS YOU..
ISN'T IT A GOOD THING THAT HE CAME TO YOU FOR HELP?
HITOSHI!!
NO WAY!! I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DRINK MILK!!
OH COME ON, TOMII-KUN.
8
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?!
I WONDER IF THE MILK SERVED AT SCHOOL IS REALLY WORTH ALL THIS HASSLE TO DRINK...
BUT REALLY, WE NEED TO FIX YOUR AVERSION TO MILK FOR YOUR HEALTH!
HEHE... THANK YOU!

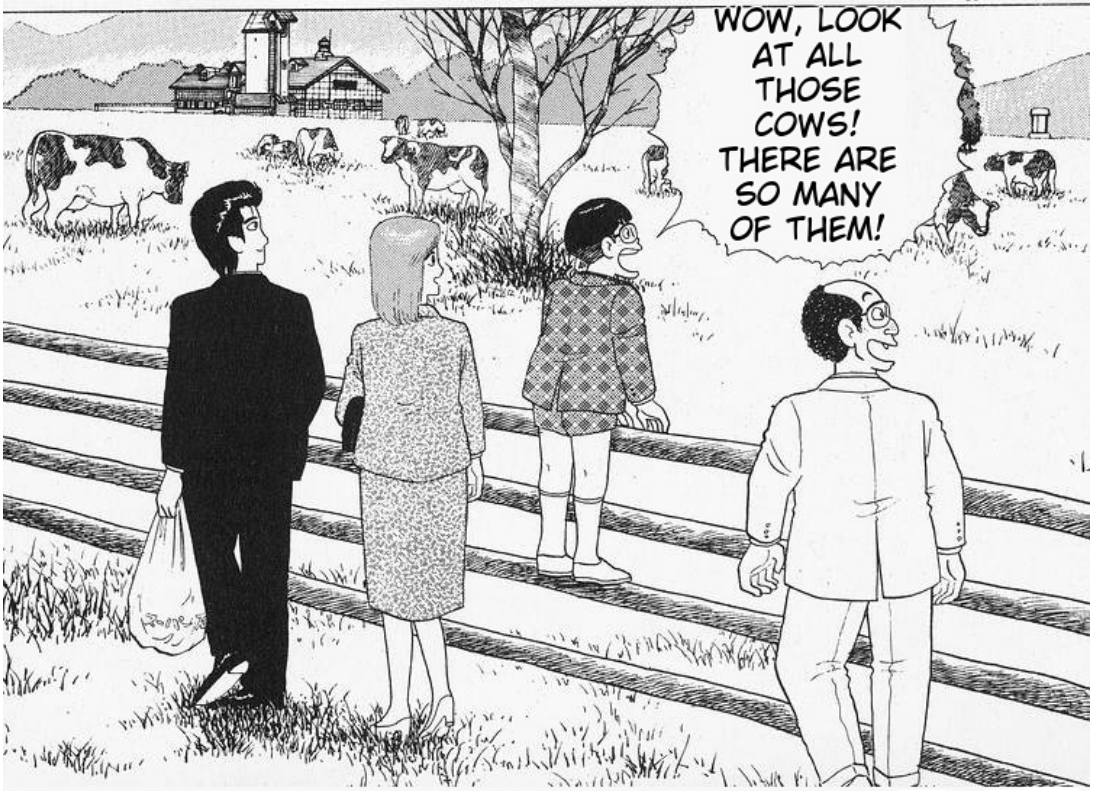
DELICIOUSNESS WARS 10



10

DELICIOUS!





WELCOME, SHIRO!

I DON'T WANT TO DRINK MILK AT ALL!!

BOSS, I WANT YOU TO SHOW THIS KID WHAT REAL MILK TASTES LIKE.
!

HAHA! SO, WE HAVE A MILK-HATER IN OUR MIDST?

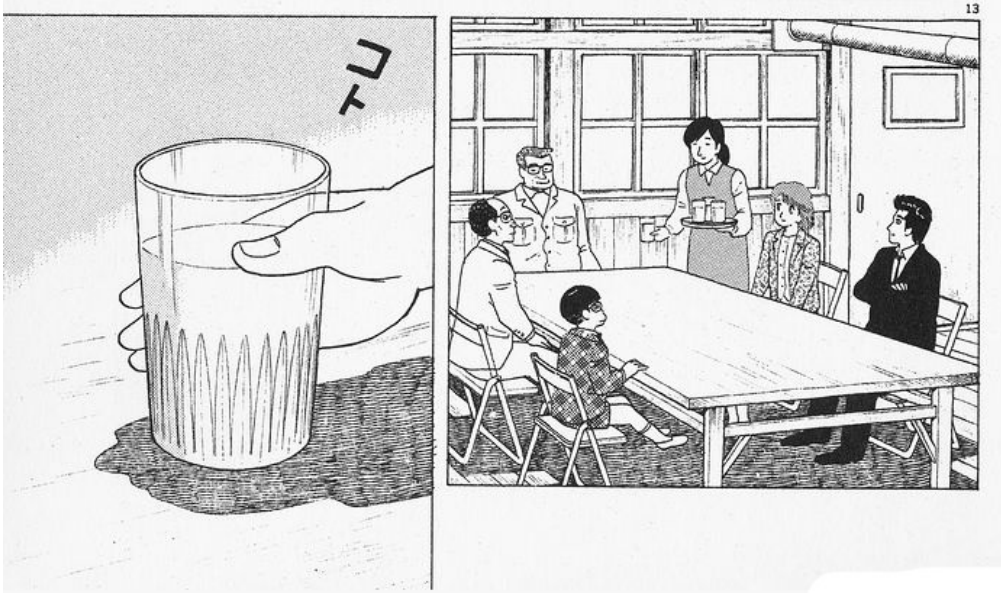
12

THAT'S A LIE! ALL MILK TASTES THE SAME!!
EVEN THE PICKIEST MILK-HATER WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH OUR MILK!

HITOSHI!
THE SAME LEG!!!!

DELICIOUS!

IS THAT SO...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR MILK, I'LL DO A HANDSTAND AND RUN THREE LAPS AROUND THE FARM, OKAY?
ALRIGHT, LET'S GIVE IT A WHIRL.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BLAST!
LITTLE BRAT, HUH...?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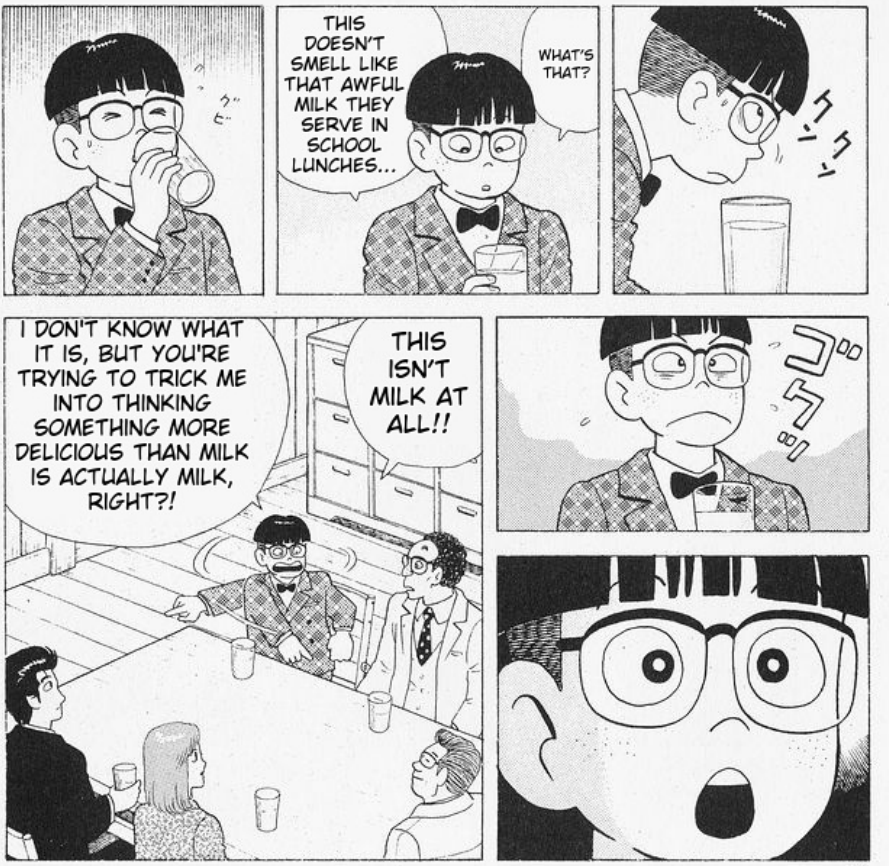
GO AHEAD AND INDULGE!
I TRULY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS.
NOW, COME ON, HITOSHI-KUN, GIVE IT A TRY!
IT'S RICH AND THE SWEETNESS IS SO LUSH...
AND YET, IT LEAVES A REFRESHING AFTERTASTE.
HITOSHI.
WOW, WHAT A BOUNTIFUL AROMA...
REMEMBER MY PROMISE?
IT'S A TASTE OVERFLOWING WITH GENTLENESS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
IT'S A FLAVOR THAT EMBODIES PURE MATERNAL LOVE, RADIATING KINDNESS.
.....

DELICIOUS!


THIS DOESN'T SMELL LIKE THAT AWFUL MILK THEY SERVE IN SCHOOL LUNCHES...
WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME INTO THINKING SOMETHING MORE DELICIOUS THAN MILK IS ACTUALLY MILK, RIGHT?!
THIS ISN'T MILK AT ALL!!
15
I'M THE ONE STRUGGLING TO FIX YOUR BRATTY KID'S AVERSION TO MILK!!!
I WAS ONLY JOKING!!!
WELL, WELL...
OH, YOU SURE SAID IT! JUST REMEMBER, WHEN IT COMES TO PAY RAISES, BONUSES, AND EVALUATIONS, THE DEPUTY MANAGER'S OPINION CARRIES WEIGHT TOO!
OH, WHAT A CHEEKY LITTLE RASCAL! I'D LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOUR PARENTS LOOK LIKE.

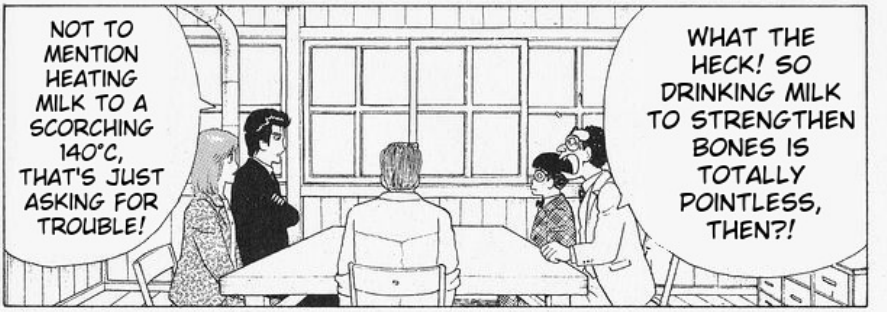
BUT WHY DOES THIS TASTE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE MILK AT SCHOOL?
IT'S PURE, UNADULTERATED MILK, NOTHING MIXED IN!
HITOSHI-KUN, THIS IS THE REAL DEAL—MILK STRAIGHT FROM THE FARM'S COWS!
CAN I HAVE A REFILL, PLEASE!!
HITOSHI!! YOU ACTUALLY DRANK IT!!
ゴクゴク
16
THAT'S THANKS TO PASTEURIZATION.
HUH?
WOW, I'M SO GRATEFUL! HITOSHI'S MILK AVERSION IS GONE!!
IF IT'S THIS DELICIOUS, I WANT TO DRINK IT EVERY DAY!
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YET, I CAN DEFINITELY TELL IT'S NOT LIKE THE MILK I BUY AT THE SUPERMARKET.

DELICIOUS!

羽一或 U-ARU
北海道
ロングライフ
坂印牛乳
坂印牛
ディトロ
ローファット
乳飲料
一橋牛乳
HITOTSUBASHI MILK
ドン
スーパー
CHECK THE BACK OF THE CARTON; IT'S ALL WRITTEN THERE!
MILK MUST BE HEAT-TREATED FOR SAFETY, BUT IT'S THE TEMPERATURE THAT'S THE REAL KICKER.
OH, THIS IS THE MILK FROM THE SCHOOL LUNCH.
WAIT, ARE YOU TELLING ME IT GETS HOTTER THAN THAT ROARING, BUBBLING CAULDRON OF BOILING WATER?!
IT'S HOTTER THAN THE TEMPERATURE OF BOILING WATER...
UM, IT SAYS TO MICROWAVE FOR 2 SECONDS...
LET ME SEE THAT...
種別 牛乳
商品名 成分無調整牛乳
無脂乳固形分 8.0%以上
乳脂肪分 3.3%以上
殺菌 120°C 2秒間
製造年月日 上部シール部に記
内容量 500ml
製造者
製造所所在地
17
THAT'S AN OUTRAGEOUS TEMPERATURE!!

OUR MILK IS STERILIZED AT 63°C FOR A FULL 30 MINUTES.
EXACTLY!
THEY RAISE THE TEMPERATURE MUCH TOO HIGH...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE MILK IS DOOMED!
BIG MANUFACTURERS SHY AWAY FROM THAT LENGTHY PROCESS, OPTING FOR HIGHER TEMPERATURES INSTEAD, EVEN THOUGH 63°C PRESERVES BOTH TASTE AND AROMA BEAUTIFULLY.
FOR STERILIZATION PURPOSES, 63°C IS MORE THAN ENOUGH. HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES AMPLE TIME TO WORK ITS MAGIC.
18
BUT WHEN SUBJECTED TO A SCORCHING 120°C, THE CALCIUM TRANSFORMS INTO A FORM THAT'S MUCH HARDER TO ABSORB.
MILK'S CALCIUM IS ALREADY IN A FORM THAT'S INCREDIBLY EASY FOR OUR BODIES TO ABSORB.
ONCE MILK HAS REACHED A FURIOUS BOIL, THERE'S NO WAY IT CAN TASTE GOOD.
THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! PRIORITIZING ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY OVER FLAVOR AND AROMA IS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.
THE LOSS OF FLAVOR AND AROMA IS A MAJOR CONCERN, BUT THERE'S AN EVEN GRAVER ISSUE AT HAND.

DELICIOUS!



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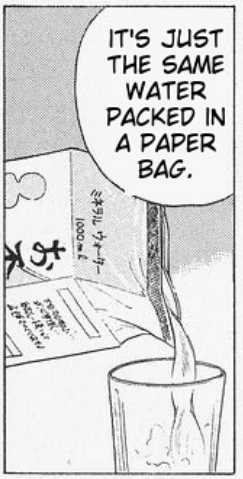
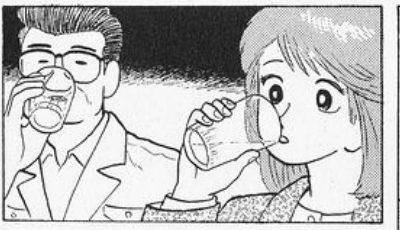
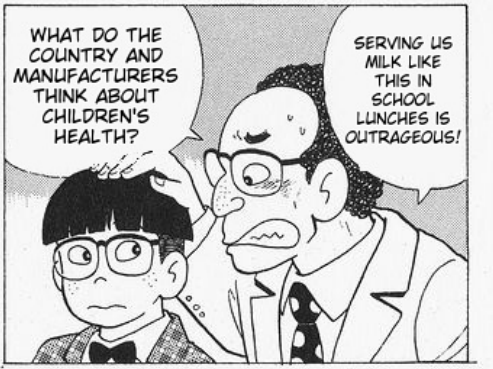




ARE ACTUALLY MASKING THE SCENT OF HARSH CHEMICALS WITH A BITTER TASTE!
WHOA, WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!
THE TRUTH IS, IT'S THE TASTE AND SCENT OF THIS PAPER CARTON.
JUST AS YOU SAID, HITOSHI-KUN, WHAT EVERYONE THINKS ARE THE FLAVORS AND AROMAS OF MILK,
THIS IS THE SMELL AND TASTE OF THE MILK SERVED IN SCHOOL LUNCHES!
WE REALLY NEED TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THESE PAPER CARTONS.
IF THERE'S FLAVOR AND AROMA COMING FROM IT, WE CAN'T SAY IT'S HARMLESS.
20
HIGH-TEMPERATURE STERILIZATION WITH A PAPER CARTON...?
OH MY GOODNESS... I ONLY NOTICED BECAUSE IT'S WATER, BUT IF IT WERE MILK, I WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT ON.
INDEED, THIS FLAVOR AND AROMA SEEM TO BE LURKING WITHIN WHAT WE BELIEVE IS MILK...

BOARD-STAMPED MILK.
HITOTSUBASHI MILK
一橋牛乳

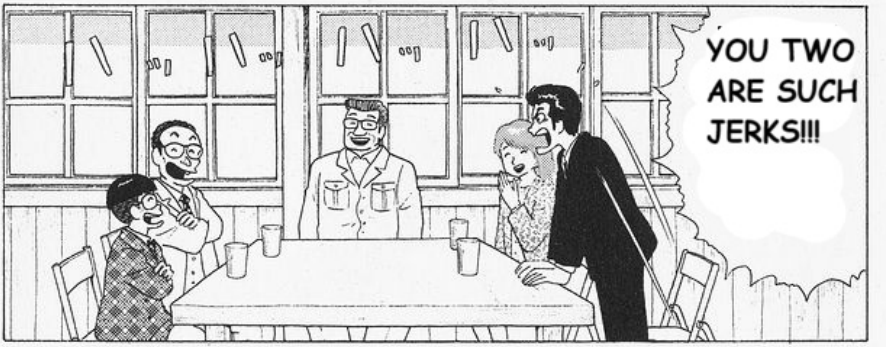

WHAT DO THE COUNTRY AND MANUFACTURERS THINK ABOUT CHILDREN'S HEALTH?
SERVING US MILK LIKE THIS IN SCHOOL LUNCHES IS OUTRAGEOUS!

WELL, WELL, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW MY RAISE AND BONUS EVALUATIONS TURN OUT.
HEY, YOU CAN'T CALL YOUR BOSS' KID A DUMMY!!! DID YOU HEAR HIM, DAD?!

I CAN TELL BAD MILK RIGHT AWAY, NO NEED FOR ALL THE FANCY ARGUMENTS LIKE UNCLE YAMAOKA.
I'M PRETTY GREAT, DON'T YOU THINK?

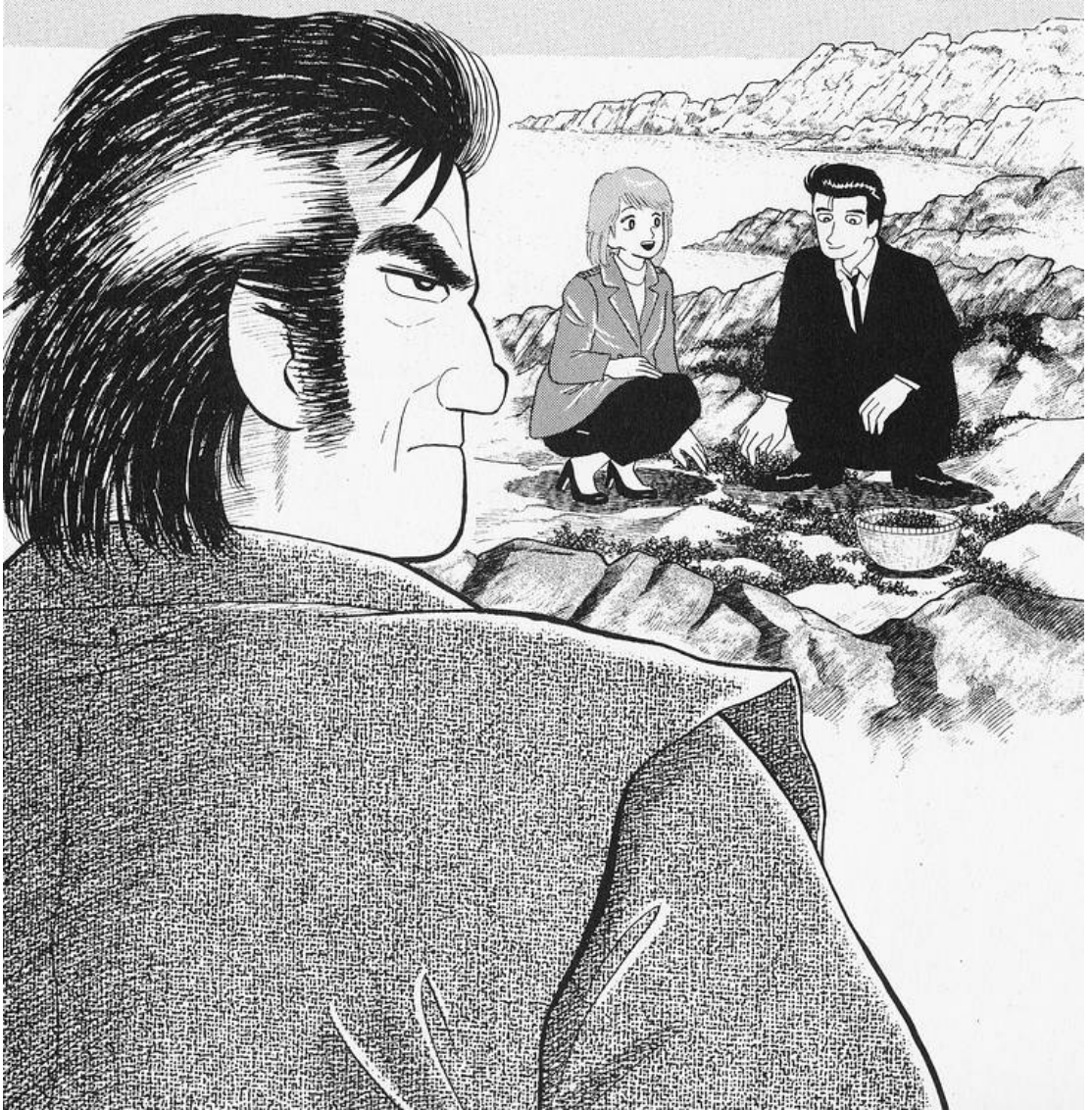
HEY, YOU DUMMY! I WAS JUST TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU!

21


YOU TWO ARE SUCH JERKS!!!

THE ADMIN OFFICE IS SAYING THAT THE RECEPTIONIST NEEDS REIMBURSEMENT FOR YOUR SON'S TAXI FARE.
HUH?
TOMII-KUN.
I ALREADY GAVE IT TO YAMAOKA...
22
HEY, YAMAOKA! YOU POCKETED THAT MONEY, DIDN'T YOU?!
IT'S MY FEE FOR BABYSITTING YOUR BRATTY KID!

第8話
潮風の贈り物



岡星
岡星
SINCE MR. KYOGOKU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM KYOTO, I ACCOMPANIED HIM TO MY NEWFOUND FAVORITE SPOT, 'OKABOSHI.'

HONESTLY, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!

I'M TRULY HONORED.
FROM START TO FINISH, EVERYTHING WAS FLAWLESS —I'M UTTERLY SATISFIED!
WELL, MY DEAR MASTER, YOU'VE TRULY OUTDONE YOURSELF AGAIN.

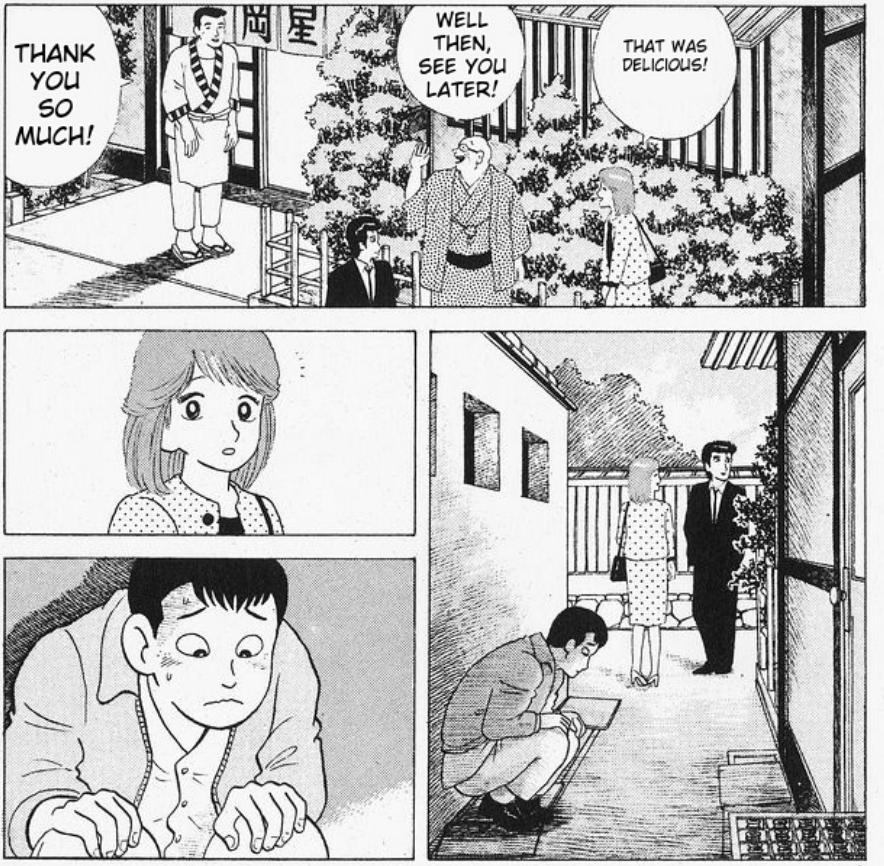
GETTING PRAISED TOO MUCH MAKES ME ANXIOUS ABOUT THE NEXT TIME.

2

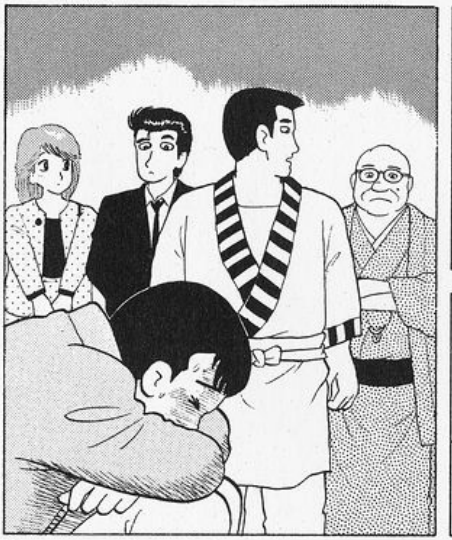
HEY NOW, I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS MOTIVATIONAL!
HMM, SO FOOD ENTHUSIASTS REALLY ARE QUITE GREEDY, AREN'T THEY?

I FIGURED IF I SHOWER YOU WITH COMPLIMENTS ON THE WAY BACK, YOU'LL BE ALL PUMPED UP FOR NEXT TIME!
AH,

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 1!

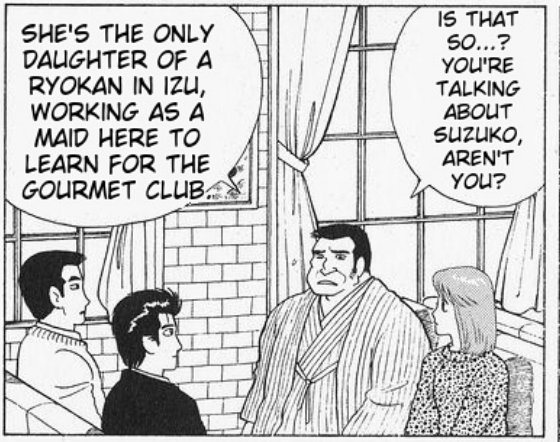


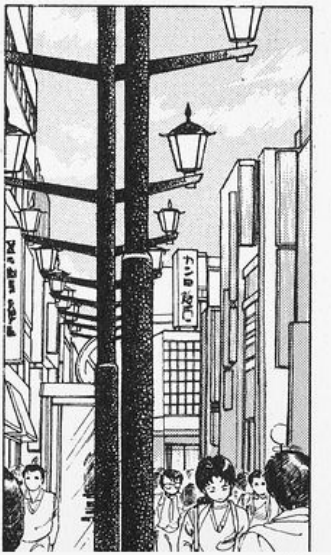
BROTHER.....
I'M A USELESS LOSER THAT CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT...
I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT...

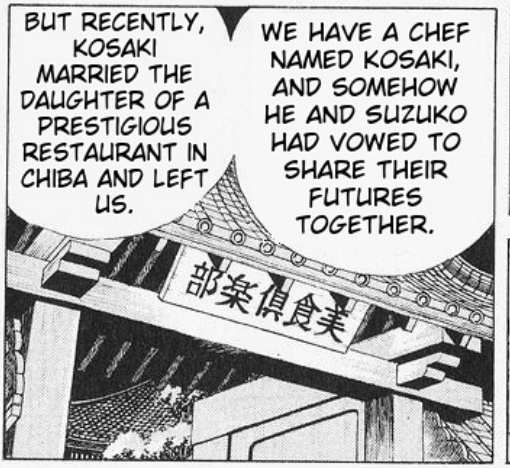


W-WHAT?
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!

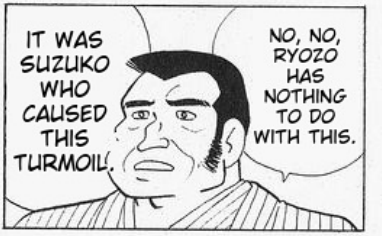
WHY DOES A YOUNG MAN HAVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS?
IT'S ABOUT A WOMAN, ISN'T IT?

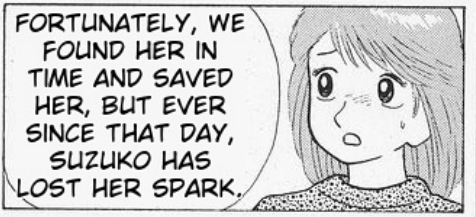

IS THAT SO...? YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SUZUKO, AREN'T YOU?
SHE'S THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A RYOKAN IN IZU, WORKING AS A MAID HERE TO LEARN FOR THE GOURMET CLUB.

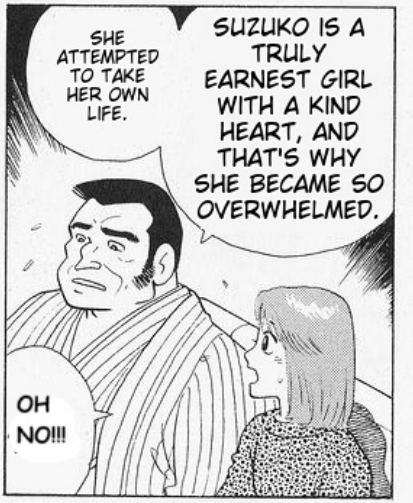


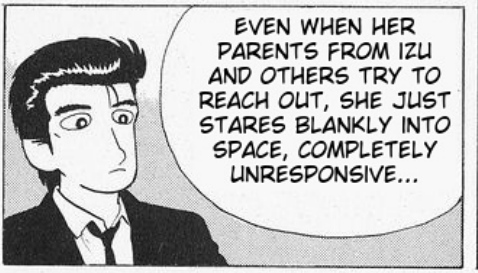

WE HAVE A CHEF NAMED KOSAKI, AND SOMEHOW HE AND SUZUKO HAD VOWED TO SHARE THEIR FUTURES TOGETHER.
BUT RECENTLY, KOSAKI MARRIED THE DAUGHTER OF A PRESTIGIOUS RESTAURANT IN CHIBA AND LEFT US.
美食倶楽部

AND WHAT ABOUT SUZUKO AND RYOZO? IS THERE SOME KIND OF TROUBLE BETWEEN THEM...?


NO, NO, RYOZO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
IT WAS SUZUKO WHO CAUSED THIS TURMOIL.


FORTUNATELY, WE FOUND HER IN TIME AND SAVED HER, BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, SUZUKO HAS LOST HER SPARK.


SUZUKO IS A TRULY EARNEST GIRL WITH A KIND HEART, AND THAT'S WHY SHE BECAME SO OVERWHELMED.
SHE ATTEMPTED TO TAKE HER OWN LIFE.
OH NO!!!

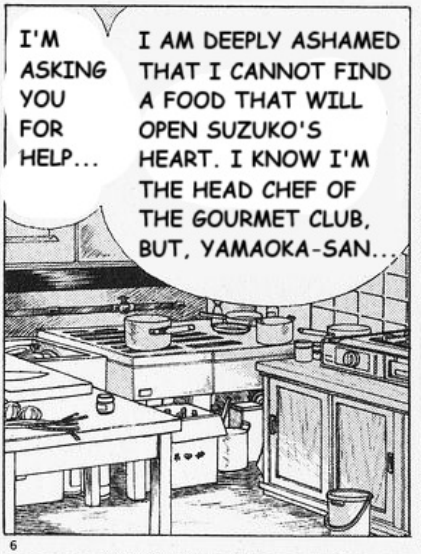

EVEN WHEN HER PARENTS FROM IZU AND OTHERS TRY TO REACH OUT, SHE JUST STARES BLANKLY INTO SPACE, COMPLETELY UNRESPONSIVE...

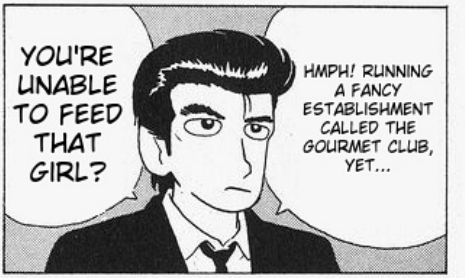
5

IF THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS, SHE MIGHT JUST FADE AWAY...
THOUGH WE'RE PROVIDING HER WITH NUTRITION THROUGH IV DRIPS, SHE'S NOW NOTHING BUT SKIN AND BONES.

GOODNESS GRACIOUS...
SHE'S STOPPED ACCEPTING FOOD ALTOGETHER.
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE,

I CALLED IN THE FINEST DOCTORS FROM FAR AND WIDE, BUT ALAS, THEY COULD DO NOTHING...
KAIBARA-SAN FEELS AN IMMENSE WEIGHT ON HIS SHOULDERS, HAVING PUT THE PRECIOUS DAUGHTER ENTRUSTED TO HIM BY HER PARENTS IN SUCH A PREDICAMENT,


I'M ASKING YOU FOR HELP...
I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED THAT I CANNOT FIND A FOOD THAT WILL OPEN SUZUKO'S HEART. I KNOW I'M THE HEAD CHEF OF THE GOURMET CLUB, BUT, YAMAOKA-SAN...


YOU'RE UNABLE TO FEED THAT GIRL?
HMPH! RUNNING A FANCY ESTABLISHMENT CALLED THE GOURMET CLUB, YET...

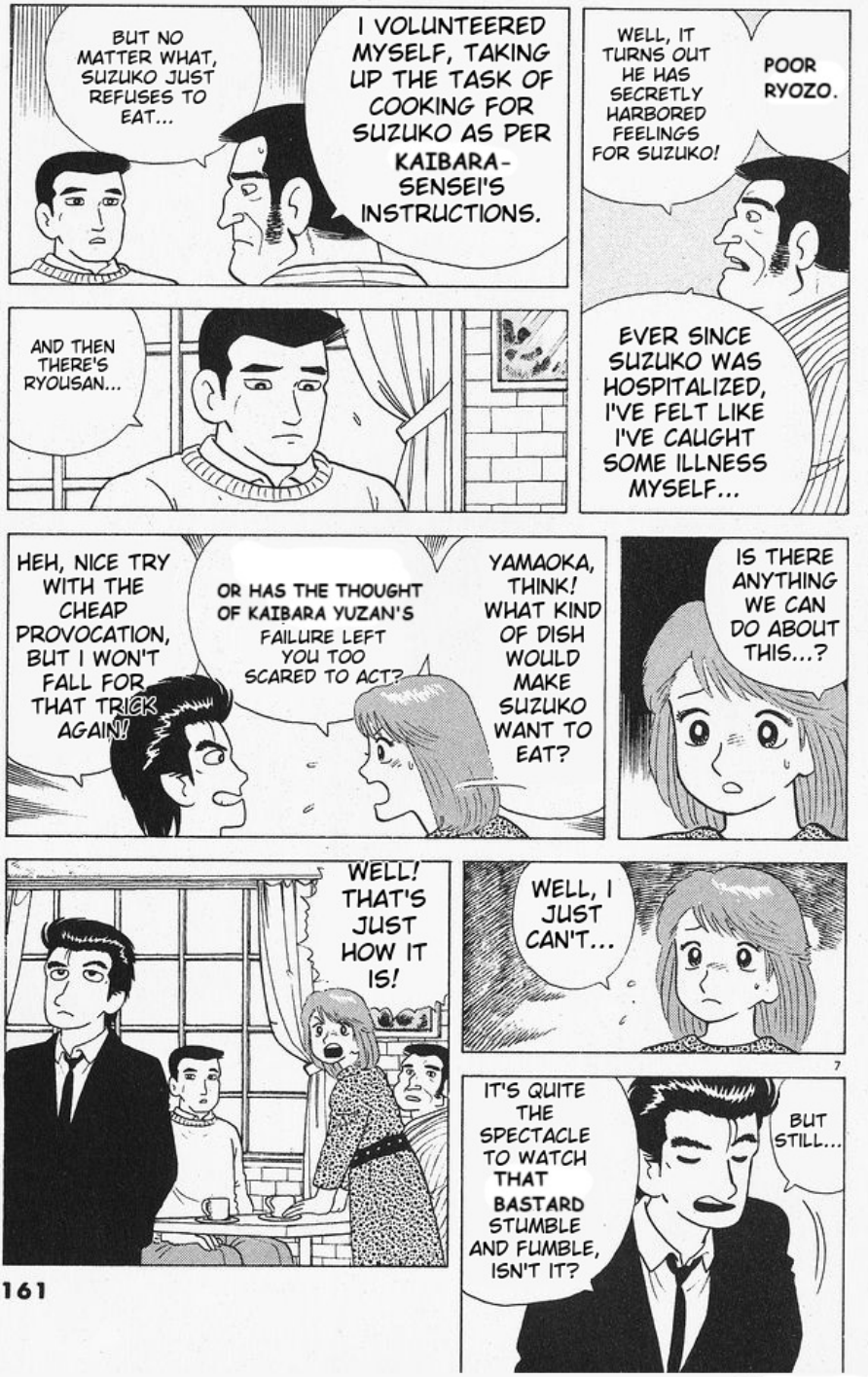
INDEED, THAT'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
MR. YAMAOKA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL!

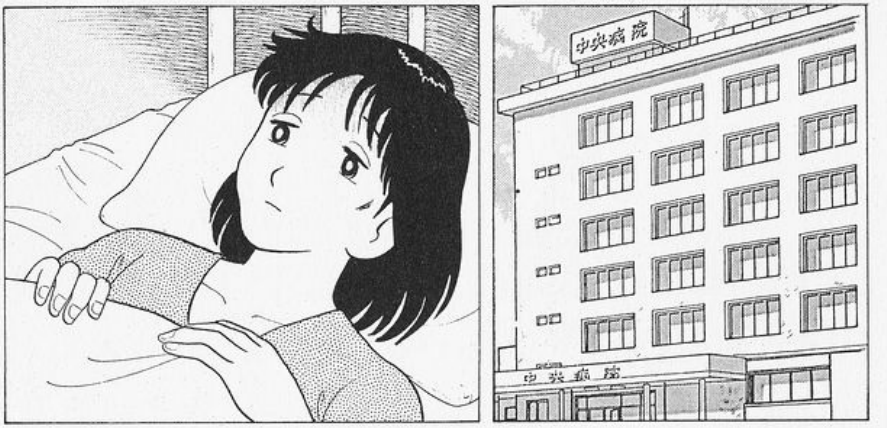
6

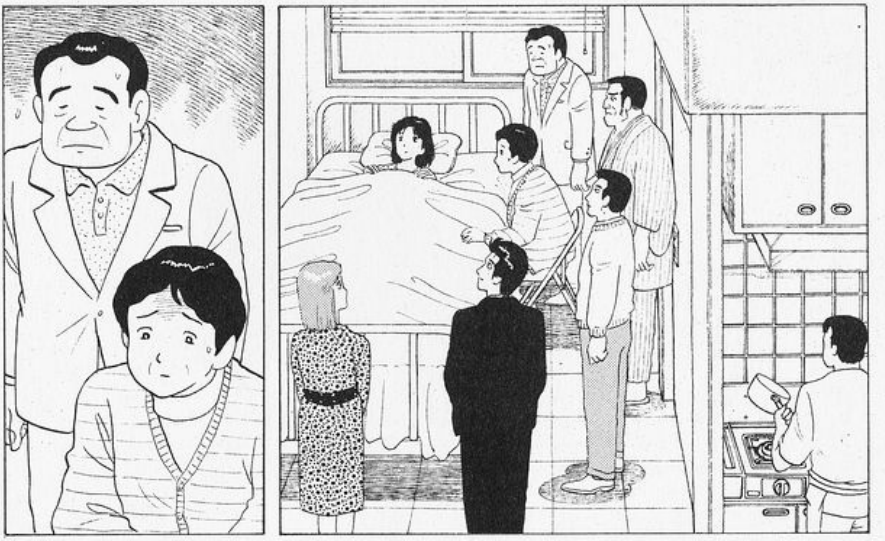
AND SO, RYŌZŌ...

THAT MAN DOESN'T POSSESS AN OUNCE OF GENUINE KINDNESS!
HE'S NOT KIND! HE'S JUST OBSESSED WITH HIS REPUTATION!
GOODNESS GRACIOUS

WELL, IT SEEMS THAT KAIBARA-SENSEI'S GOT A SOFTER SIDE AFTER ALL...


I VOLUNTEERED MYSELF, TAKING UP THE TASK OF COOKING FOR SUZUKO AS PER KAIBARA-SENSEI'S INSTRUCTIONS.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, SUZUKO JUST REFUSES TO EAT...
POOR RYOZO.
WELL, IT TURNS OUT HE HAS SECRETLY HARBORED FEELINGS FOR SUZUKO!
EVER SINCE SUZUKO WAS HOSPITALIZED, I'VE FELT LIKE I'VE CAUGHT SOME ILLNESS MYSELF...
AND THEN THERE'S RYOUSAN...
HEH, NICE TRY WITH THE CHEAP PROVOCATION, BUT I WON'T FALL FOR THAT TRICK AGAIN!
OR HAS THE THOUGHT OF KAIBARA YUZAN'S FAILURE LEFT YOU TOO SCARED TO ACT?
YAMAOKA, THINK! WHAT KIND OF DISH WOULD MAKE SUZUKO WANT TO EAT?
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS...?
WELL! THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS!
WELL, I JUST CAN'T...
7
IT'S QUITE THE SPECTACLE TO WATCH THAT BASTARD STUMBLE AND FUMBLE, ISN'T IT?
BUT STILL...





8

ANYTHING TOO OUT OF THE ORDINARY MIGHT UPSET YOUR DELICATE STOMACH, SO WE DECIDED TO STICK WITH COMFORTING CLASSICS...
CONSIDERING HOW WEAK YOU'VE BEEN FEELING THESE PAST FEW DAYS,
IT SEEMS LIKE A TYPICAL MEAL FOR THE ILL...
IS THIS REALLY THE MENU?
HERE YOU GO, SUZUKO, IT'S OKAYU.
IN TIMES LIKE THIS, FAMILIAR COMFORTS ARE FAR EASIER TO DIGEST.
NO NEED FOR FANCY DISHES OR EXOTIC FLAVORS HERE.
LOOK, IT'S YOUR FAVORITE DASHIMAKI TAMAGO!
THIS BEEF SOBORO IS MADE TO PERFECTION, JUST THE WAY YOU LOVE IT!
9
.....

!
RYŌZŌ HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN YOUR DEBT.
I AM SEIJI OKABOSHI, RYŌZŌ'S OLDER BROTHER.
10
SIR, SHIRO IS RYOZO'S GOOD FRIEND...
SENSEI?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THESE PEOPLE DOING HERE?!

I'M OUTTA HERE!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT BEING AN ADVISOR? JUST SCRAM, YOU'RE A NUISANCE!
WHAT'S THIS NONSENSE ABOUT A GOURMET CLUB? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
HMPH, ALWAYS SPOUTING OFF WITH THAT HIGH-AND-MIGHTY ATTITUDE, YET WHEN IT TRULY COUNTS, YOU CAN'T EVEN WHIP UP SOMETHING TO INSPIRE A SICKLY HEART TO EAT? PATHETIC, I SAY!
11
GET OUTTA HERE!!
SHUT IT ALREADY!!

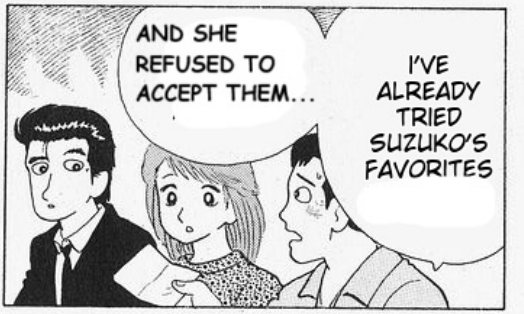
INDEED, WITHOUT A DOUBT, MISS SUZUKO WILL RECOVER."
PLEASE, HOLD ONTO HOPE."
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HEARTFELT VISIT; IT TRULY MEANS A LOT."
WHEN I COMPARE THAT MEMORY TO HER CURRENT STATE..."
SHE WAS A GIRL WHO ADORED THE SEA; I CAN'T FORGET THE IMAGE OF HER JOYFULLY PLAYING BY THE SHORE RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR HOME."
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST FOR SUZUKO TO LIVE A TRANQUIL LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF IZU."
I NEVER INTENDED TO SEND SUZUKO OFF TO TOKYO."
12
.....

IF SUZUKO WERE TO ACCEPT SOMETHING NOW, I BET IT WOULD ONLY BE THE FAVORITES FROM HER CHILDHOOD.
AS HUMANS, WE CAN NEVER FORGET THE TASTE OF THE DELICIOUS FOOD WE SAVORED AS CHILDREN.

LET'S GATHER SUZUKO'S CHERISHED CHILDHOOD FAVORITES AND SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

NO, IT WAS NO GOOD AT ALL...

HMPH!
IT SEEMS KAIBARA YUZAN HAS ALREADY TRIED EVERY IDEA YOU'VE HAD...


AND SHE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEM...
I'VE ALREADY TRIED SUZUKO'S FAVORITES

13

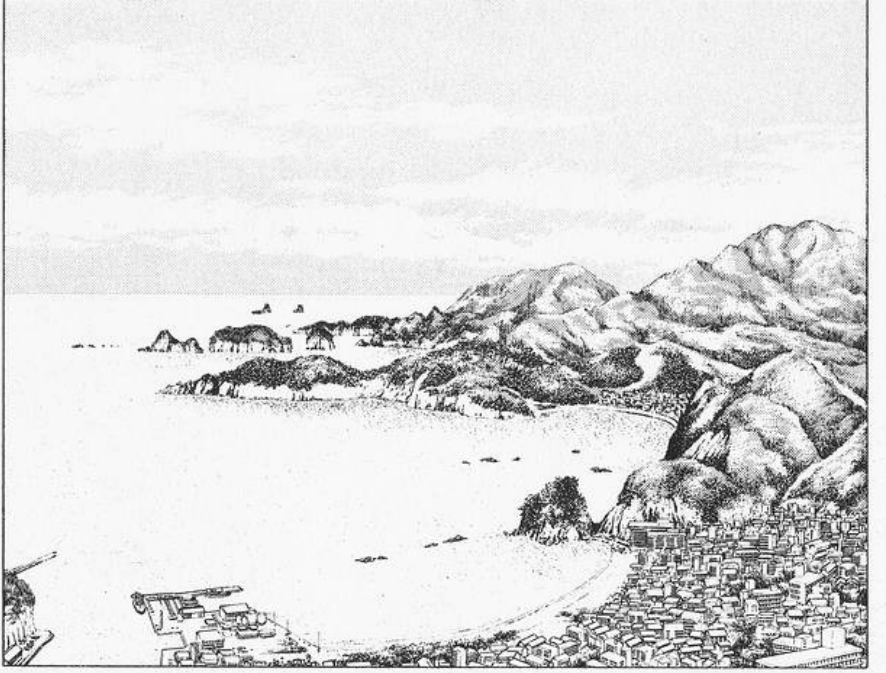
SHE'S A WOMAN WHO TRIED TO TAKE HER OWN LIFE AFTER BEING HEARTBROKEN BY ANOTHER MAN.
RYŌZŌ, DO YOU REALLY LOVE SUZUKO THAT MUCH?

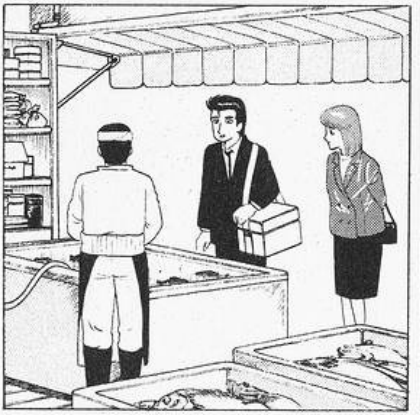
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO.
WE'VE EXHAUSTED EVERY POSSIBLE OPTION...

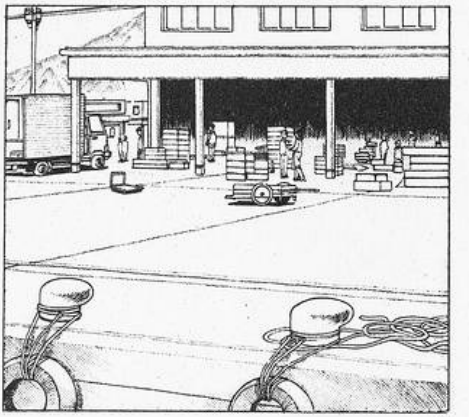
GROWING UP BY THE SEASIDE IN IZU, IT'S NO SURPRISE SHE LOVES SEAFOOD.

I WISH SOMEONE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME!
EEK, HOW CHARMING!
REMEMBER, A MAN'S WORTH ISN'T IN BEING LOVED, BUT IN HIS ABILITY TO LOVE.
YOU'RE NOT SOUNDING LIKE YOUR USUAL SELF, BROTHER.
I'M HEADING OVER THERE TO STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES.
EVEN THE SAME VEGETABLES AND FISH MIGHT HAVE A SUBTLE TWIST COMPARED TO WHAT'S FOUND IN TOKYO'S MARKETS.
HOW ABOUT WE VENTURE TO IZU TOMORROW?
FOR YOUR SAKE, I MUST FIND A WAY TO HELP SUZUKO...
NO, RYŌZŌ, I UNDERSTAND YOUR INTENTIONS WELL.

14







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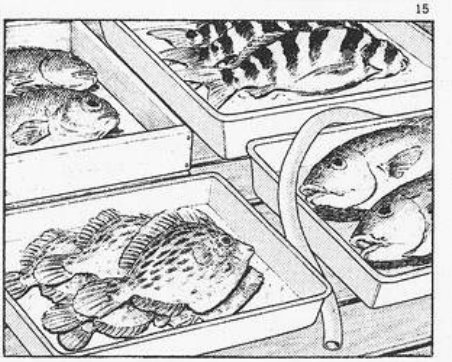
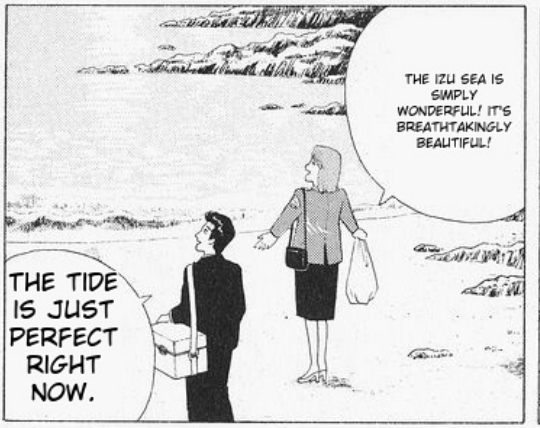



THE IZU SEA IS SIMPLY WONDERFUL! IT'S BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!
THE TIDE IS JUST PERFECT RIGHT NOW.

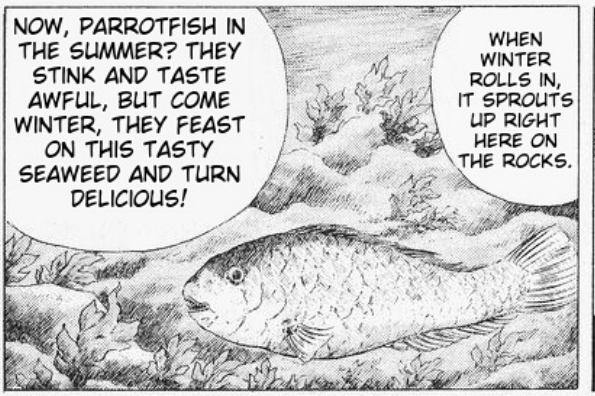
INDEED, THE LOCAL FISH HAVE A FLAVOR ALL THEIR OWN.
WITH SUCH VARIETY AND FRESHNESS, HOW COULD THEY NOT?

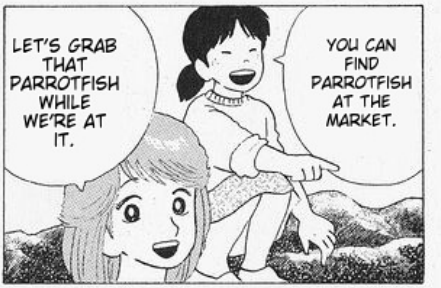
16

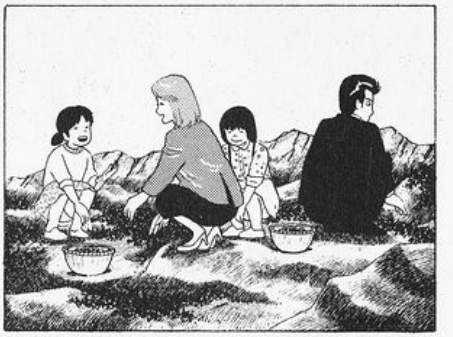
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
LOOK, THEY'RE HARVESTING SEAWEED!

I CAN ALMOST HEAR WHAT HER PARENTS USED TO SAY.
MS. SUZUKO MUST HAVE PLAYED AROUND IN THESE VERY WATERS TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?

DELICIOUSNESS AWAITS IN VOLUME 10 OF 'OISHINBO'!







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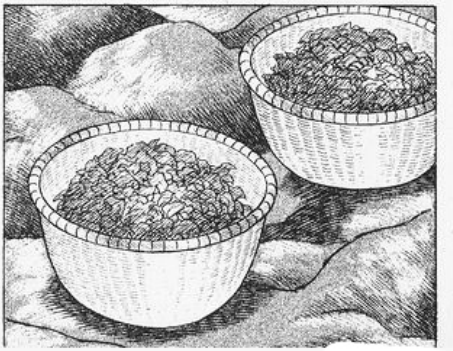
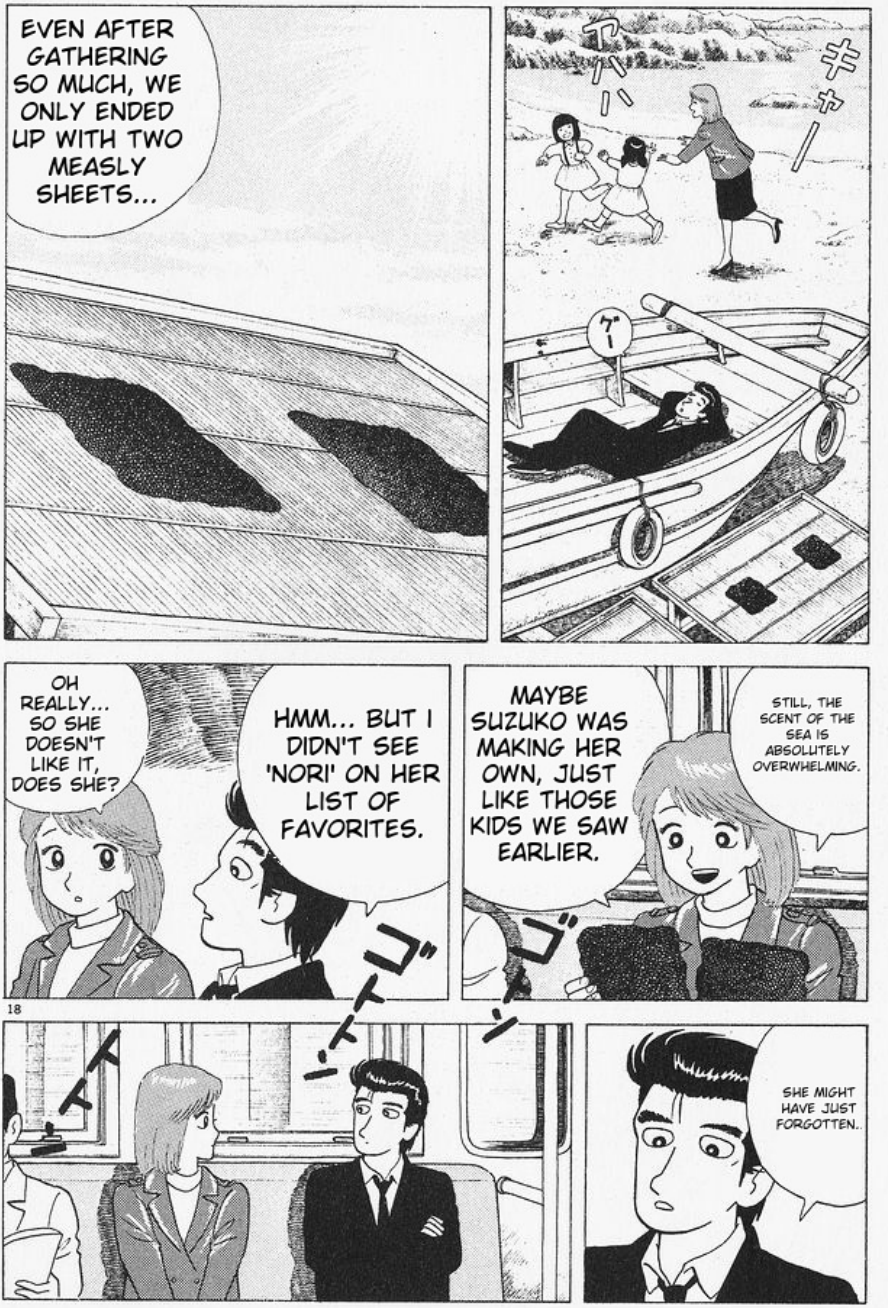



EVEN AFTER GATHERING SO MUCH, WE ONLY ENDED UP WITH TWO MEASLY SHEETS...
キャー
ゲー
OH REALLY... SO SHE DOESN'T LIKE IT, DOES SHE?
HMM... BUT I DIDN'T SEE 'NORI' ON HER LIST OF FAVORITES.
MAYBE SUZUKO WAS MAKING HER OWN, JUST LIKE THOSE KIDS WE SAW EARLIER.
STILL, THE SCENT OF THE SEA IS ABSOLUTELY OVERWHELMING.
18
ガタゴトン
SHE MIGHT HAVE JUST FORGOTTEN..

BUT YOU USED TO LOVE IT SO MUCH...
SUZUKO, LOOK! IT'S SASHIMI OF THE PARROTFISH!
中央病院
中央病院
19
WELL THEN, COULD YOU GRILL THIS FOR ME?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT...
ジュージュー
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING THAT YAMAOKA-SAN WENT ALL THE WAY TO IZU TO BUY FOR US.
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE NOW.

IT'S RICH AND HAS A UNIQUE TWIST TO IT.
?
WHAT IS THIS?
OH MY,
SUZUKO JUST SPOKE!!
SUZUKO!!
SUZUKO-SAN!!
.....
THE SCENT OF THE SEA WAFTS THROUGH THE AIR...

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 1!

I LONG TO RETURN TO THE ME OF YESTERYEARS..
A GUST OF IZU'S SEA BREEZE SWEEPS THROUGH MY SOUL.
I WANT TO LIVE ANEW.

THANK YOU...

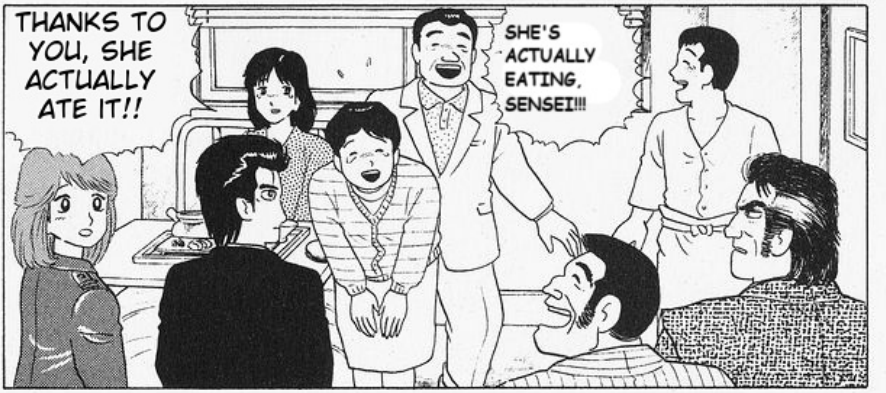
SUZUKO....

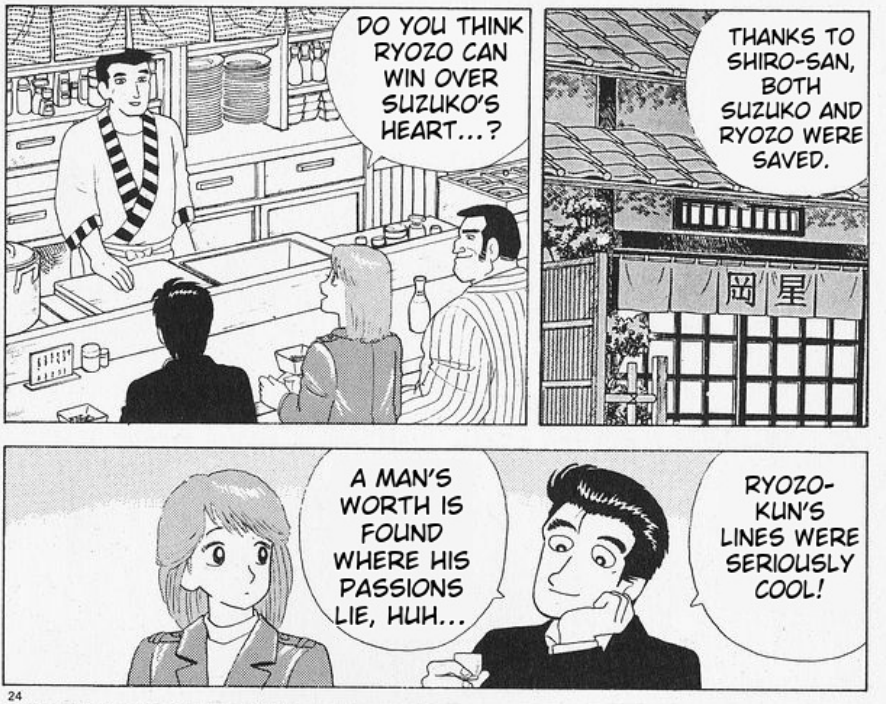
TEACHER

22

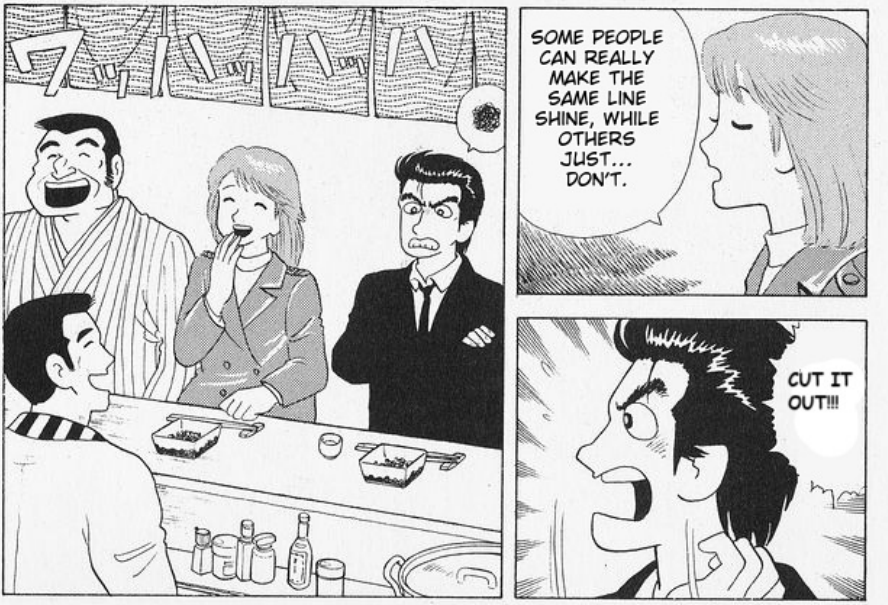
LOOK AT SUZUKO DEVOURING HER MEAL!!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 1!



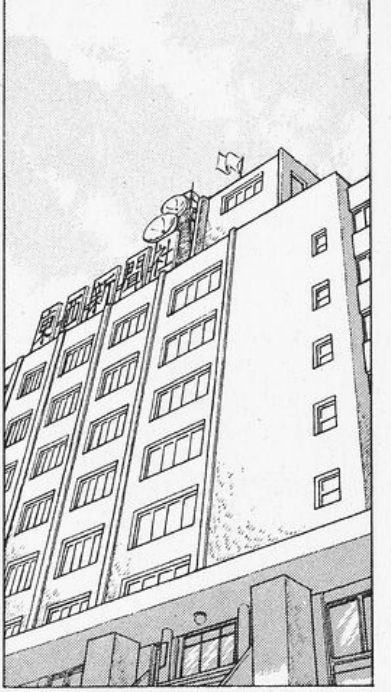

DO YOU THINK RYOZO CAN WIN OVER SUZUKO'S HEART...?
THANKS TO SHIRO-SAN, BOTH SUZUKO AND RYOZO WERE SAVED.
岡星
A MAN'S WORTH IS FOUND WHERE HIS PASSIONS LIE, HUH...
RYOZO-KUN'S LINES WERE SERIOUSLY COOL!

24


ワハハハハ
SOME PEOPLE CAN REALLY MAKE THE SAME LINE SHINE, WHILE OTHERS JUST... DON'T.
CUT IT OUT!!!

第9話
乾物の滋味

YAMAOKA, COME HERE FOR A SEC!



IS IT REALLY OKAY TO HAVE A GUY LIKE YOU AROUND?
YOUR MANNERS ARE EVEN WORSE THAN I HEARD!
KATUKAZU FUKAI, HEAD OF THE ARTS SECTION AT THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER.

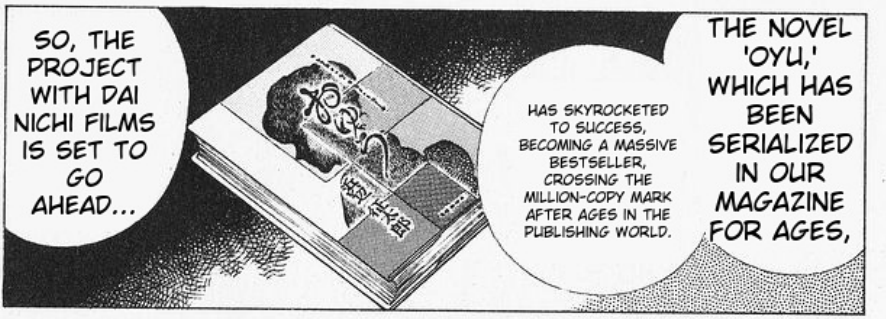
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YAWN...

2

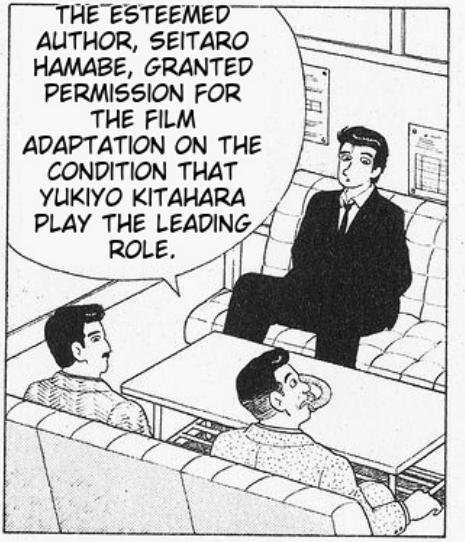
COULD YOU EITHER PRAISE ME OR CRITICIZE ME? CAN'T YOU PICK ONE?!
DAMN IT...

HMM...

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD, THERE'S NO ONE HERE WHO KNOWS MORE...
LOOK, HE'S PROBABLY THE LAZIEST PERSON IN THE COMPANY.


SO, THE PROJECT WITH DAI NICHI FILMS IS SET TO GO AHEAD...
HAS SKYROCKETED TO SUCCESS, BECOMING A MASSIVE BESTSELLER, CROSSING THE MILLION-COPY MARK AFTER AGES IN THE PUBLISHING WORLD.
THE NOVEL 'OYU,' WHICH HAS BEEN SERIALIZED IN OUR MAGAZINE FOR AGES,

OH, REALLY..
I KNOW YUKIYO KITAHARA, OF COURSE! SHE'S A LEGENDARY ACTRESS!

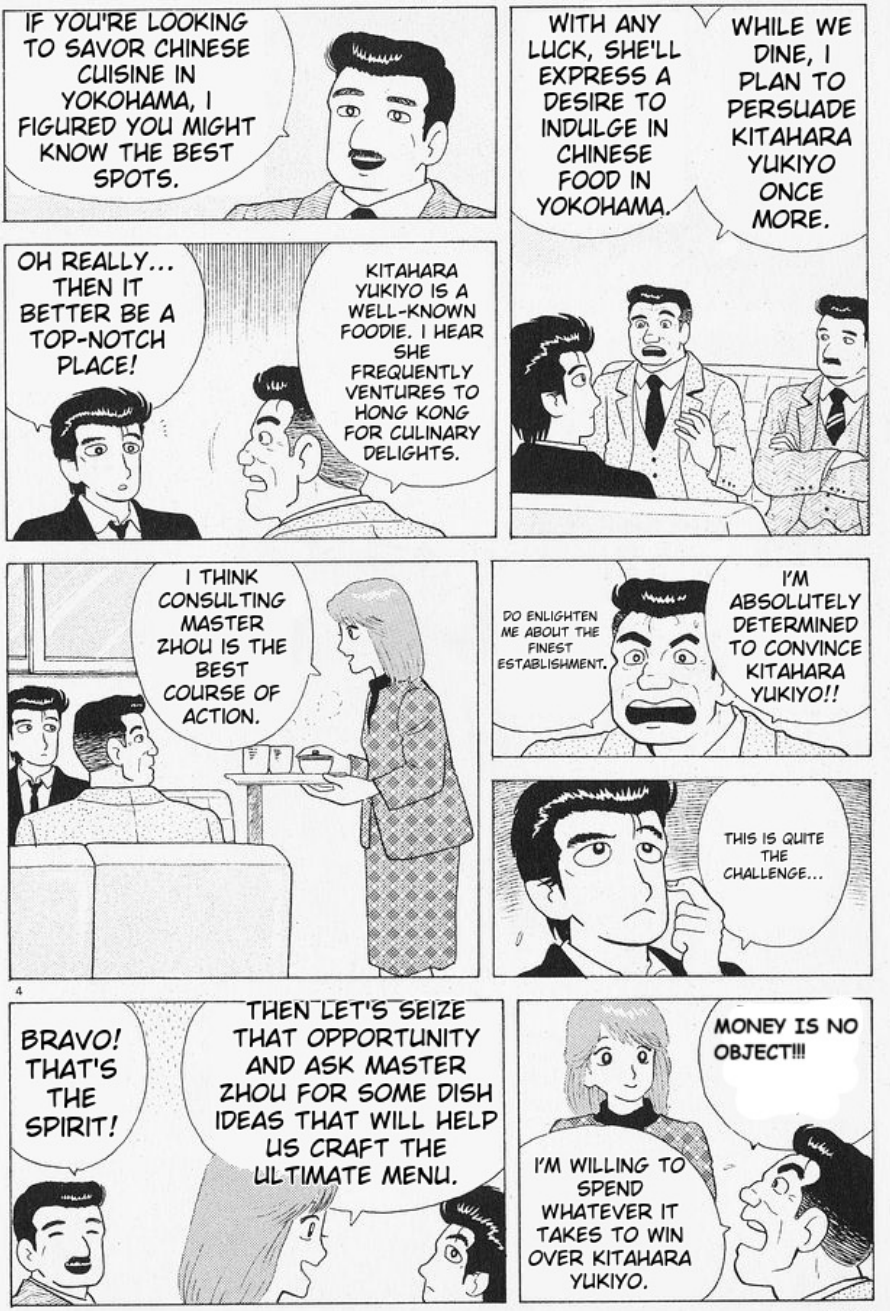

THE ESTEEMED AUTHOR, SEITARO HAMABE, GRANTED PERMISSION FOR THE FILM ADAPTATION ON THE CONDITION THAT YUKIYO KITAHARA PLAY THE LEADING ROLE.

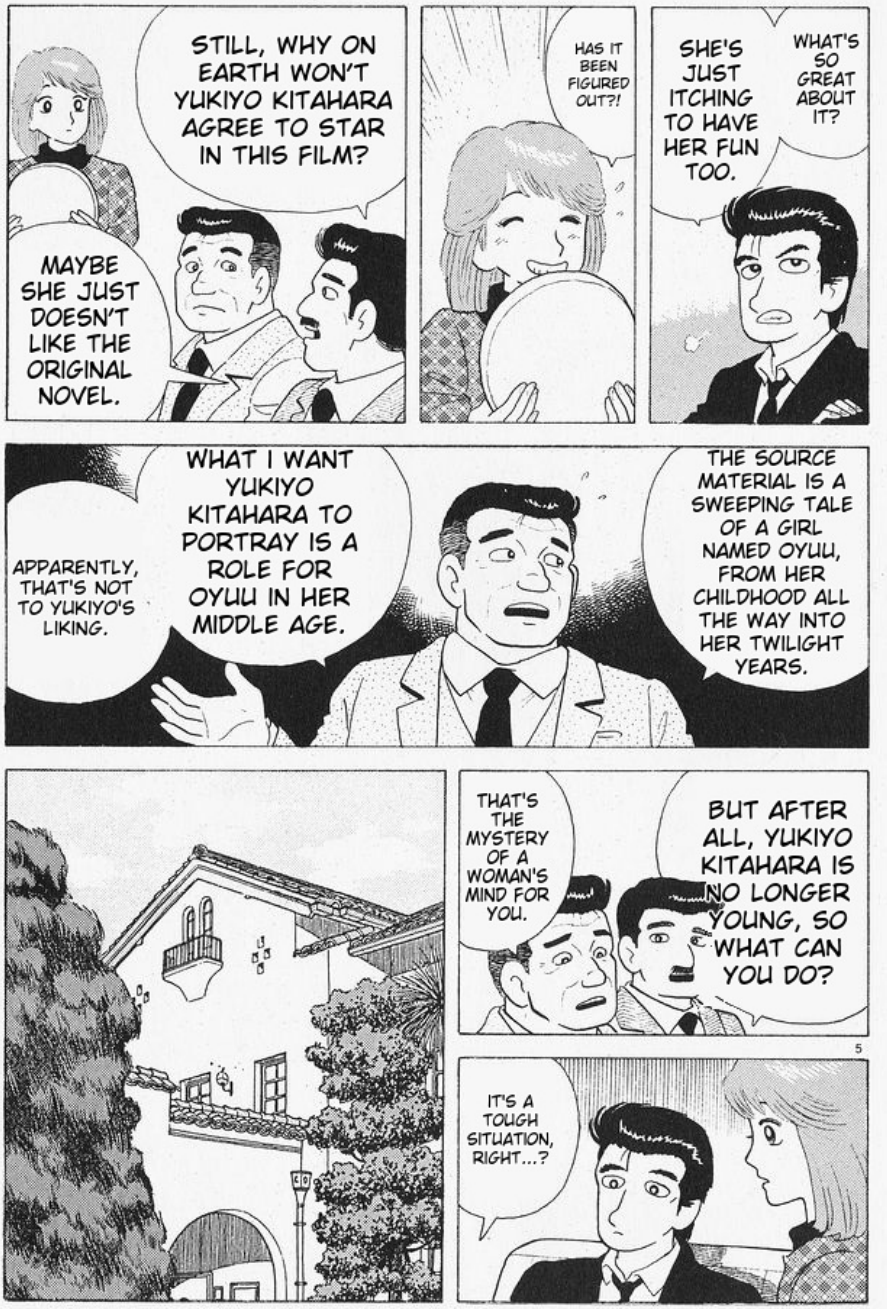
3

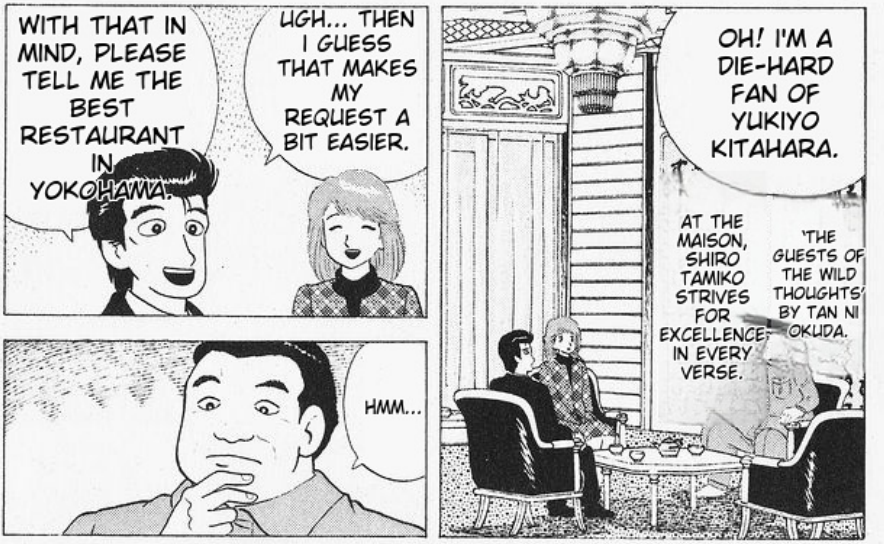
MY BEST FRIEND IS THE PRODUCER IN CHARGE AT DAI NICHI FILMS, AND I'M EAGER TO LEND A HELPING HAND...
WHILE OUR COMPANY ISN'T DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FILM ADAPTATION...

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS YUKIYO KITAHARA ISN'T RESPONDING POSITIVELY.

AND SO,
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...?

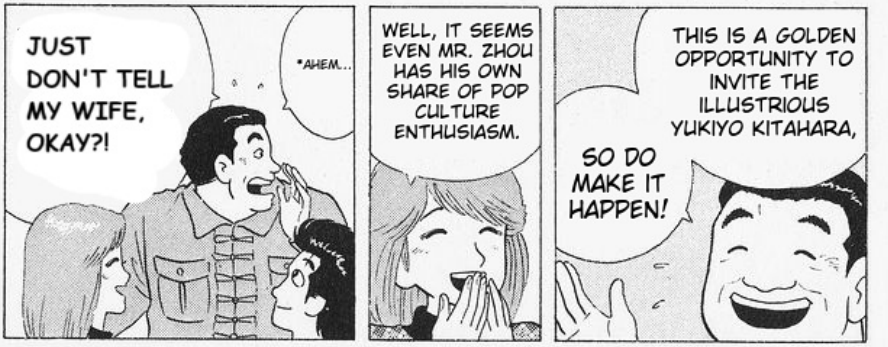

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SAVOR CHINESE CUISINE IN YOKOHAMA, I FIGURED YOU MIGHT KNOW THE BEST SPOTS.
OH REALLY... THEN IT BETTER BE A TOP-NOTCH PLACE!
KITAHARA YUKIYO IS A WELL-KNOWN FOODIE. I HEAR SHE FREQUENTLY VENTURES TO HONG KONG FOR CULINARY DELIGHTS.
WITH ANY LUCK, SHE'LL EXPRESS A DESIRE TO INDULGE IN CHINESE FOOD IN YOKOHAMA.
WHILE WE DINE, I PLAN TO PERSUADE KITAHARA YUKIYO ONCE MORE.
I THINK CONSULTING MASTER ZHOU IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.
DO ENLIGHTEN ME ABOUT THE FINEST ESTABLISHMENT.
I'M ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED TO CONVINCE KITAHARA YUKIYO!!
THIS IS QUITE THE CHALLENGE...
4
BRAVO! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
THEN LET'S SEIZE THAT OPPORTUNITY AND ASK MASTER ZHOU FOR SOME DISH IDEAS THAT WILL HELP US CRAFT THE ULTIMATE MENU.
MONEY IS NO OBJECT!!!
I'M WILLING TO SPEND WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN OVER KITAHARA YUKIYO.

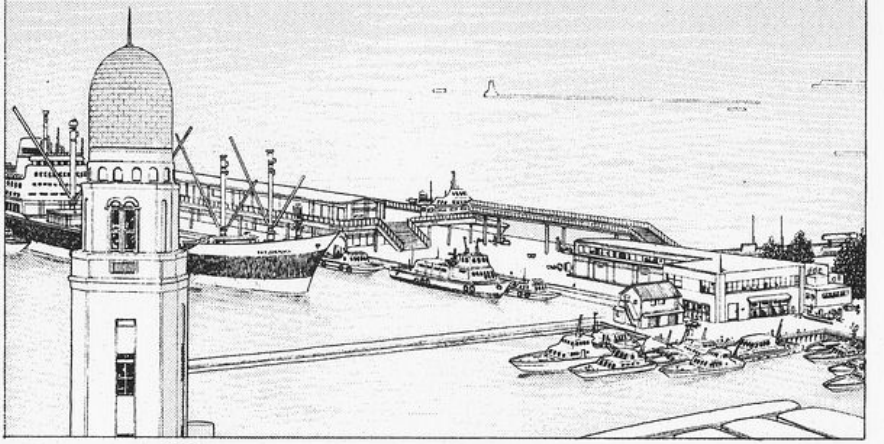

STILL, WHY ON EARTH WON'T YUKIYO KITAHARA AGREE TO STAR IN THIS FILM?
MAYBE SHE JUST DOESN'T LIKE THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.
HAS IT BEEN FIGURED OUT?!
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT IT?
SHE'S JUST ITCHING TO HAVE HER FUN TOO.
APPARENTLY, THAT'S NOT TO YUKIYO'S LIKING.
WHAT I WANT YUKIYO KITAHARA TO PORTRAY IS A ROLE FOR OYUU IN HER MIDDLE AGE.
THE SOURCE MATERIAL IS A SWEEPING TALE OF A GIRL NAMED OYUU, FROM HER CHILDHOOD ALL THE WAY INTO HER TWILIGHT YEARS.
THAT'S THE MYSTERY OF A WOMAN'S MIND FOR YOU.
BUT AFTER ALL, YUKIYO KITAHARA IS NO LONGER YOUNG, SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?
5
IT'S A TOUGH SITUATION, RIGHT...?

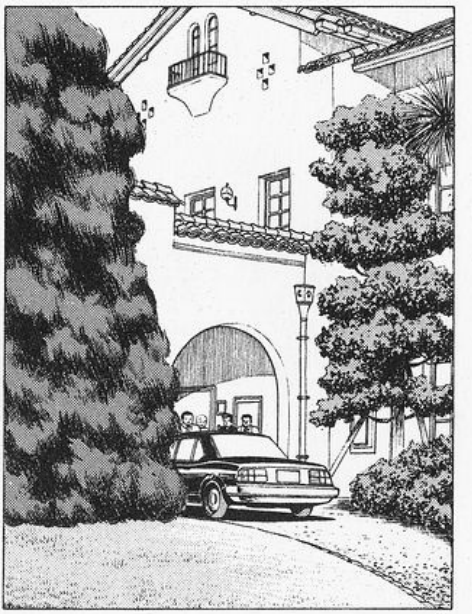

WITH THAT IN MIND, PLEASE TELL ME THE BEST RESTAURANT IN YOKOHAMA.
UGH... THEN I GUESS THAT MAKES MY REQUEST A BIT EASIER.
HMM...
OH! I'M A DIE-HARD FAN OF YUKIYO KITAHARA.
AT THE MAISON, SHIRO TAMIKO STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVERY VERSE.
'THE GUESTS OF THE WILD THOUGHTS' BY TAN NI OKUDA.

AND SINCE THE INGREDIENTS ARE SOURCED WITHOUT A PROFIT MOTIVE, I CAN GUARANTEE ONLY THE FINEST FOR YOU.
I HATE TO BRAG, BUT THE CHEF AT MY PLACE IS A CULINARY WIZARD, ONE YOU'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND EVEN IN HONG KONG.
WHAT?! YOUR PLACE?!
HOW ABOUT MY PLACE?

6


JUST DON'T TELL MY WIFE, OKAY?!
*AHEM...
WELL, IT SEEMS EVEN MR. ZHOU HAS HIS OWN SHARE OF POP CULTURE ENTHUSIASM.
THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE THE ILLUSTRIOUS YUKIYO KITAHARA,
SO DO MAKE IT HAPPEN!





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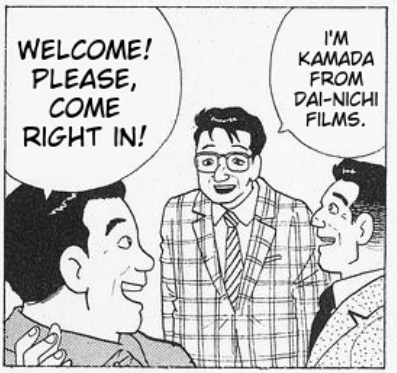
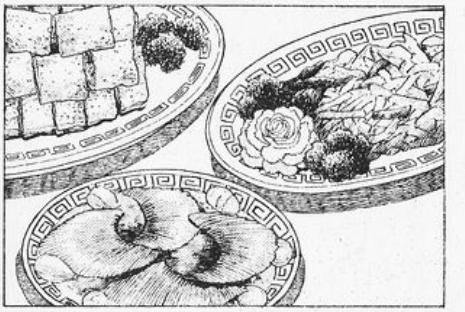

WELCOME! PLEASE, COME RIGHT IN!
I'M KAMADA FROM DAI-NICHI FILMS.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME TODAY.
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US!

DAD'S IN! DAD'S ROCKING THE GRAND DEBUT AT THE PRESTIGIOUS VENUE!
THOUGHTS OF THE FUTURE, FEELINGS ENTWINED,
FIVE MYSTICAL SYMBOLS, SHROUDED IN MYSTERY, SUMMON THE SPIRITS BEYOND THE ORDINARY!

ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN CONTEMPLATING RETIRING.
I'M NOT DISSATISFIED WITH MY ROLE.



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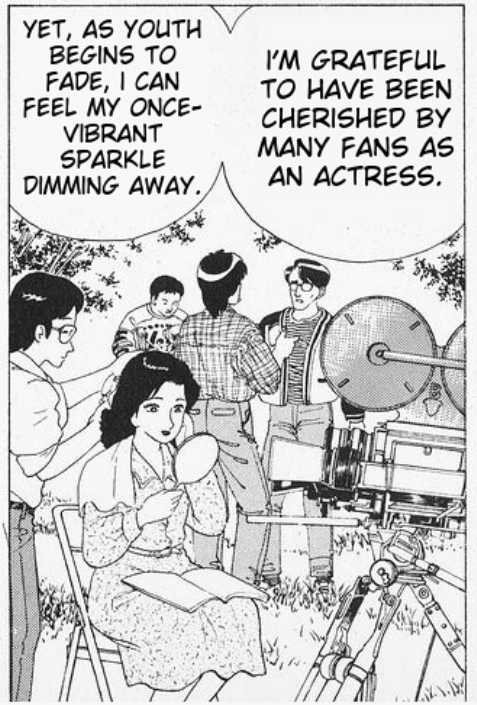
YET, AS YOUTH BEGINS TO FADE, I CAN FEEL MY ONCE-VIBRANT SPARKLE DIMMING AWAY.
I'M GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN CHERISHED BY MANY FANS AS AN ACTRESS.

WELL, WHY ON EARTH IS THAT?!
EXCUSE ME?! WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

BUT, YOU'RE ONLY FORTY! I'M OLDER THAN YOU!!!
THAT'S SIMPLY BECAUSE I'VE GROWN OLDER, MY DEAR.

I'M STEPPING DOWN FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO HAVE CHERISHED ME.
IF I RETIRE NOW, THE IMAGE OF MY YOUTHFUL SELF WILL REMAIN UNSCATHED IN THE HEARTS OF MY FANS.
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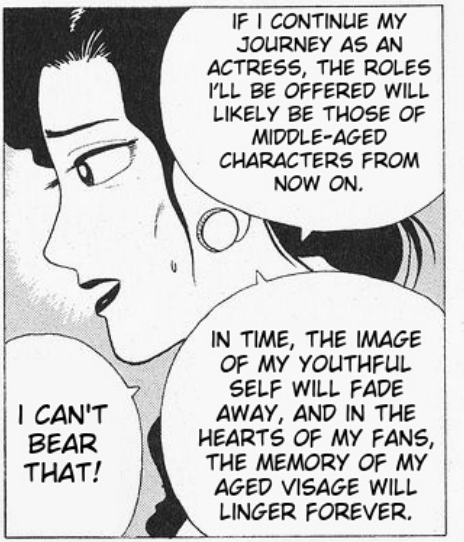
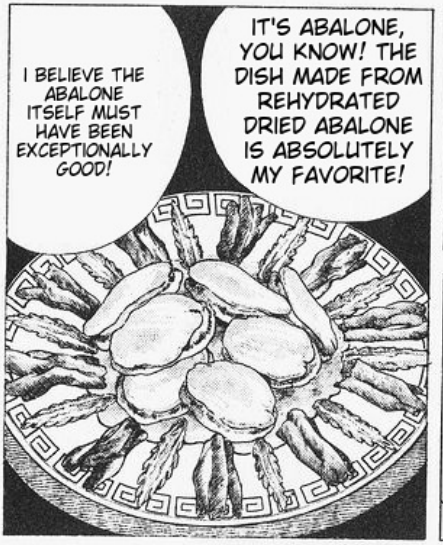
東宝三番


IF I CONTINUE MY JOURNEY AS AN ACTRESS, THE ROLES I'LL BE OFFERED WILL LIKELY BE THOSE OF MIDDLE-AGED CHARACTERS FROM NOW ON.
I CAN'T BEAR THAT!
IN TIME, THE IMAGE OF MY YOUTHFUL SELF WILL FADE AWAY, AND IN THE HEARTS OF MY FANS, THE MEMORY OF MY AGED VISAGE WILL LINGER FOREVER.

BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE.

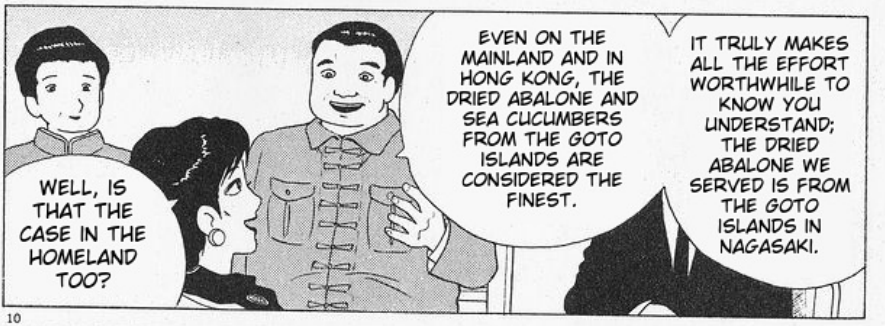
THAT'S NOT RIGHT, KITAHARA! YOU'RE MISTAKEN!

FANS WANT TO BASK IN THE BRILLIANCE OF YOUR PERFORMANCE FOREVER!

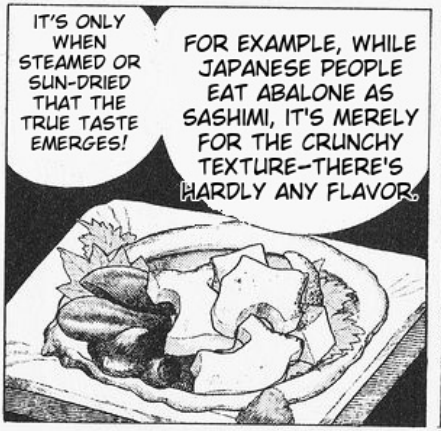

I BELIEVE THE ABALONE ITSELF MUST HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD!
IT'S ABALONE, YOU KNOW! THE DISH MADE FROM REHYDRATED DRIED ABALONE IS ABSOLUTELY MY FAVORITE!

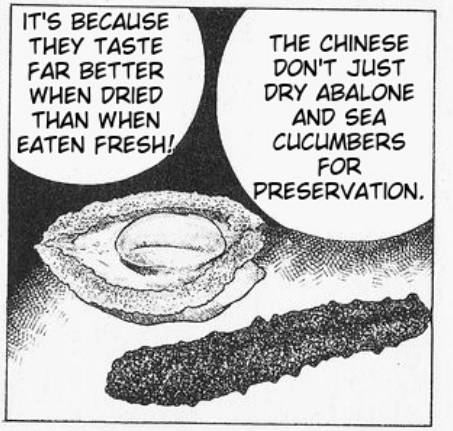
EVERY DISH TODAY HAS BEEN SIMPLY SPLENDID, AND I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEM AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME!

BY THE WAY, WHICH DISH DID YOU PARTICULARLY ENJOY?
I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!


WELL, IS THAT THE CASE IN THE HOMELAND TOO?
EVEN ON THE MAINLAND AND IN HONG KONG, THE DRIED ABALONE AND SEA CUCUMBERS FROM THE GOTO ISLANDS ARE CONSIDERED THE FINEST.
IT TRULY MAKES ALL THE EFFORT WORTHWHILE TO KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND; THE DRIED ABALONE WE SERVED IS FROM THE GOTO ISLANDS IN NAGASAKI.

10


IT'S ONLY WHEN STEAMED OR SUN-DRIED THAT THE TRUE TASTE EMERGES!
FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE JAPANESE PEOPLE EAT ABALONE AS SASHIMI, IT'S MERELY FOR THE CRUNCHY TEXTURE—THERE'S HARDLY ANY FLAVOR.

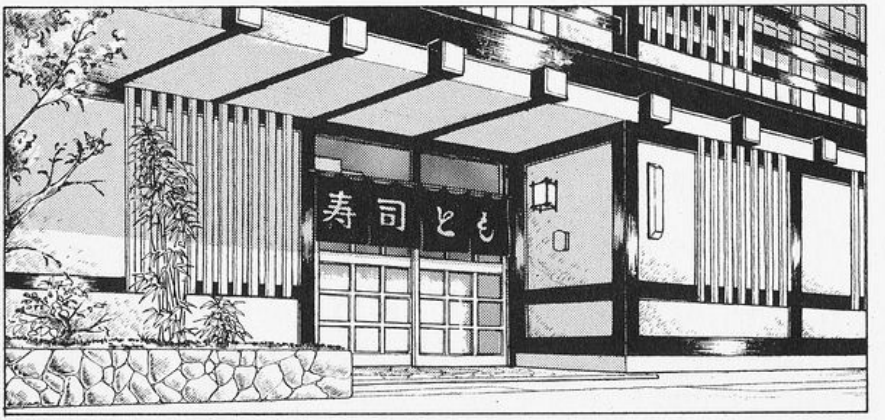

IT'S BECAUSE THEY TASTE FAR BETTER WHEN DRIED THAN WHEN EATEN FRESH!
THE CHINESE DON'T JUST DRY ABALONE AND SEA CUCUMBERS FOR PRESERVATION.

THAT'S TRUE WHEN IT COMES TO ABALONE, BUT...
IN THIS REGARD, I'D SAY THE CHINESE HAVE A BETTER GRASP OF FLAVOR THAN THE JAPANESE.
JAPANESE PEOPLE THINK THAT SEAFOOD TASTES BEST WHEN IT'S FRESH AND RAW, BUT THAT'S A MISCONCEPTION.
WILL YOU JOIN ME?
MS. KITAHARA, IF YOU LOVE DRIED ABALONE THAT MUCH, I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO TRY...
.....
OH, REALLY?
MR. ZHOU, I WANT TO SHOW YOU THAT NOT ALL JAPANESE ARE CLUELESS ABOUT FLAVOR.
11
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU PLANNING TO SERVE...?
SINCE I'M RETIRING, I'M FREE AS A BIRD, SO PLEASE, COUNT ME IN!
OKAY!

LOSING AN ACTRESS LIKE HER IS A TREMENDOUS LOSS FOR THE JAPANESE FILM INDUSTRY.
WHAT A SHAME.
IT SEEMS YUKIYO KITAHARA'S RESOLVE IS UNWAVERING...
WELCOME YOKOHAMA
THERE WAS A LEGENDARY ACTRESS NAMED SETSUKO MIHARA WHO DID JUST THAT.
THE DAZZLING SPARKLE OF YOUTH IS TRULY MAGNIFICENT, BUT THE SUBTLE GLOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS AGED BEAUTIFULLY IS SOMETHING RARE AND PRECIOUS. THAT'S WHAT I WAS HOPING TO SEE IN YUKIYO KITAHARA...
12
THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR HAD AGREED TO THE ADAPTATION ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT YUKIYO KITAHARA WOULD PORTRAY OYU IN HER MIDDLE AGE.
WITH THIS, THE FILM ADAPTATION OF 'OYU' SEEMS UTTERLY HOPELESS.
PERHAPS YUKIYO KITAHARA IS CONTEMPLATING THE SAME FATE...
AFTER A CERTAIN AGE, SHE HARDLY MADE ANY APPEARANCES, NOT JUST IN FILMS BUT EVEN OUTSIDE HER HOME, BECOMING ALMOST A MYSTICAL FIGURE.

HOW ABOUT HAVING MR. FUKAI AND MR. KAMADA JOIN US AS WELL?
I'VE INVITED MR. ZHOU AND MS. KITAHARA, BUT-
.....
WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY GENEROUS, BUT...
I SEE NO HOPE OF CONVINCING HER...

13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AT FIRST GLANCE, IT SEEMS LIKE AN ORDINARY SUSHI ROLL, BUT THE INGREDIENTS ARE THE FINEST OF THE FINEST, CAREFULLY SELECTED.
HMM, WHAT A TRULY EXQUISITE FLAVOR.
I'M ENVIOUS; IT'S A BRILLIANCE I CAN NEVER RECLAIM...
ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS, A RADIANCE THAT ONLY YOUTH CAN POSSESS!
.....
IT'S FRESH AND VIBRANT...
AND THE WAY THIS YOUNG LADY SHAPES THE SUSHI IS SIMPLY INDESCRIBABLE.
.....

INSTEAD OF SUSHI, YOU'LL BE ENJOYING UBA SHELL PORRIDGE.
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT...?
UBA SHELL?
THAT'S ALL FOR THE SUSHI!!!
I TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR OVERWHELMING COMPLIMENTS, EVERYONE. THANK YOU SO MUCH!
WHAT?! THAT'S IT?!
I MEAN, I'M BARELY AT FOUR-TENTHS FULL!
WELL THEN, LET'S DIG IN, SHALL WE?
YAMAOKA INVITED US TODAY BECAUSE OF THE DRIED ABALONE INCIDENT. AND THIS 'UBA SHELL' MUST BE RELATED TO THAT LITTLE TALE WE SHARED, RIGHT?
AH, I SEE... SO MR.
15
YES, HERE'S THE UBA SHELL.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT!
OH, SO THIS IS UMAMI CLAM.
IS THIS PERHAPS A SURF CLAM?
OH MY...?
PLEASE, INDULGE IN SOME SURF CLAMS.
I DID SAY WE WERE DONE WITH SUSHI, BUT...
NATSUKO-SAN, IF YOU PLEASE.
COMMONLY, WE REFER TO THE FRESH ONES AS SURF CLAMS AND THE DRIED ONES AS UMAMI CLAMS.
YEAH, SURE.
IT'S NOT AS OVERPOWERING AS SEAWEED, MAKING IT EASY TO EAT.
AH, YES, THE SWEET AND UNIQUELY COMPLEX FLAVOR OF THE CLAM...
16
THE DELIGHTFUL, CHEWY TEXTURE IS SIMPLY DIVINE!

DELICIOUS!

INTO THE POT, WE'LL ADD ONE TO ONE AND A HALF SURF CLAMS PER PERSON.
PLEASE, EVERYONE, KEEP THE FLAVOR OF THE NORTH SEA CLAM FRESH IN YOUR MINDS.
WE'LL SEASON IT WITH SAKE AND SOY SAUCE.
WHEN THE SURF CLAMS HAVE COOKED TO PERFECTION AND RELEASED THEIR ESSENCE,
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
NOT USING THAT.
WHAT ABOUT OTHER BROTHS?
OH... SO THE FLAVOR SOLELY COMES FROM THE SURF CLAM, DOES IT?
WELL THEN, LET'S SEE HOW THIS FINISHING TOUCH TURNS OUT...
17
WHEN THE RICE HAS FLUFFED UP JUST RIGHT, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
TO AVOID ANY UNWANTED STICKINESS, WE'LL QUICKLY RINSE THE RICE.

HERE YOU GO, ENJOY!
NOW, LET'S FINISH IT OFF WITH SOME FINELY CHOPPED MITSUBA...

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THE UNIQUE AROMA THAT ARISES FROM DRYING IS REMINISCENT OF ABALONE, ISN'T IT?

HMM, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL FRAGRANCE.

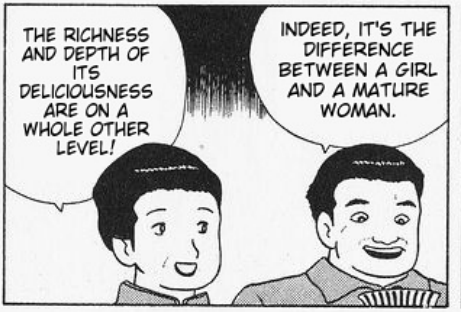
THE MORE YOU SAVOR IT, THE DEEPER THE LAYERS OF FLAVOR UNFOLD...!
AH, YES, IT'S A TASTE THAT RESONATES WITH RICHNESS AND DEPTH.

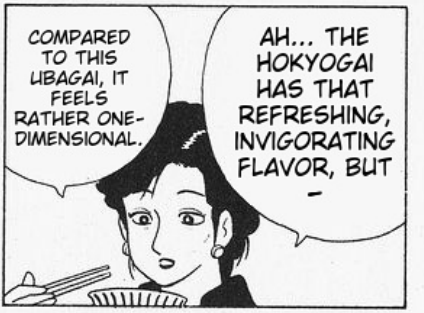
WOW!! WHAT A WONDERFULLY COMPLEX TASTE!!

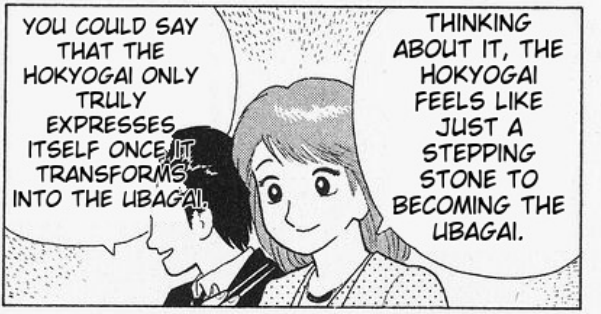
18

TRY TO RECALL THE TASTE FROM WHEN YOU HAD IT FRESH EARLIER AND COMPARE.

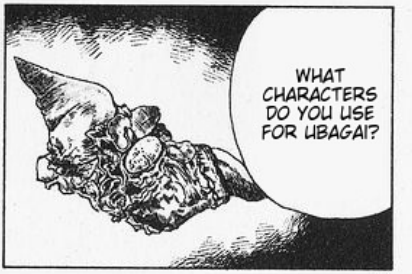
I'M AMAZED...! WHO KNEW SUCH A BOLD FLAVOR COULD COME FROM MOLLUSKS ALONE?


THE RICHNESS AND DEPTH OF ITS DELICIOUSNESS ARE ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL!
INDEED, IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GIRL AND A MATURE WOMAN.


COMPARED TO THIS UBAGAI, IT FEELS RATHER ONE-DIMENSIONAL.
AH... THE HOKYOGAI HAS THAT REFRESHING, INVIGORATING FLAVOR, BUT –


YOU COULD SAY THAT THE HOKYOGAI ONLY TRULY EXPRESSES ITSELF ONCE IT TRANSFORMS INTO THE UBAGAI.
THINKING ABOUT IT, THE HOKYOGAI FEELS LIKE JUST A STEPPING STONE TO BECOMING THE UBAGAI.

YOU! HOW RUDE...!!
YAMAOKA-SAN!!!!
IT'S FINE, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, YAMAOKA-SAN!


WHAT CHARACTERS DO YOU USE FOR UBAGAI?

19

WHEN YOU REACH THE AGE OF SOMEONE LIKE KITAHARA-SAN, THEY START CALLING YOU UBASAKURA, DON'T THEY?
WELL THEN... IS IT REALLY THE UBASAKURA WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?

THE TRUE FLAVOR OF A PERSON ISN'T JUST THE SPARKLE OF YOUTH, YOU KNOW.
YAMAOKA-SAN, NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU TREATED ME TO THIS ABALONE PORRIDGE.
IF I CAN'T CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF THE SURF CLAM ANYMORE, I'LL JUST HAVE TO SAVOR THE FLAVOR OF THE ABALONE INSTEAD...
I'VE BEEN WAY TOO AFRAID OF GROWING OLDER.
THERE'S A DEPTH OF TASTE THAT BLOSSOMS WITH AGE, ONE THAT YOUTH SIMPLY CAN'T OFFER.
HOORAY!! HUZZAH!!
20
I WANT TO CHALLENGE MYSELF TO PORTRAY THE RICH, HUMAN CHARM THAT OYUU EXHIBITS AS SHE MATURES, BEYOND HER YOUNGER DAYS.
KAMADA-SAN, PLEASE LET ME TAKE ON THE ROLE OF 'OYUU' IN HER MIDDLE AGE.
THANK YOU, YAMAOKA-SAN.

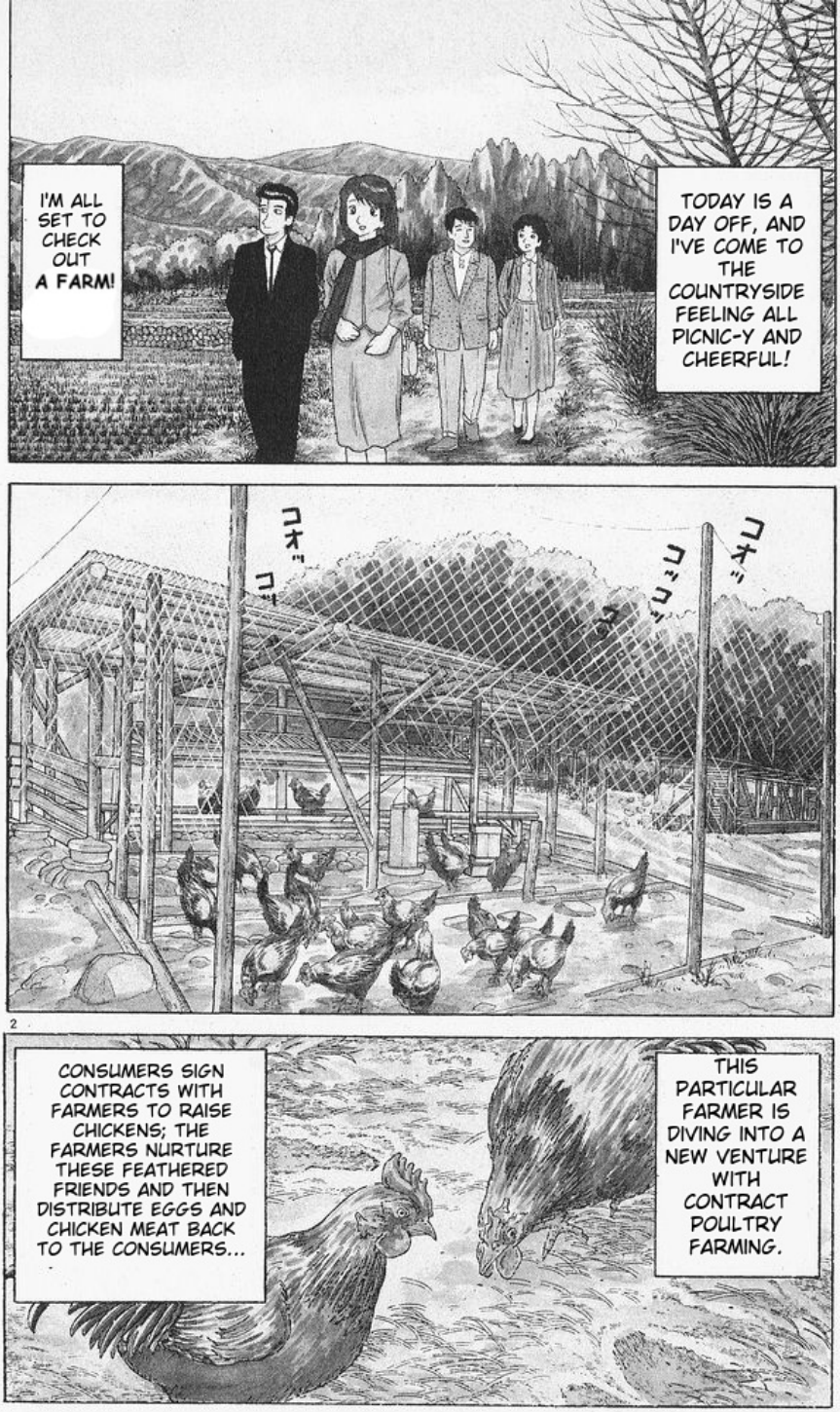
DELICIOUS!

BUT THE JAPANESE? THEY SAVOR BOTH THE DRIED SHELLFISH AND THE FRESH! THEY ENJOY IT ALL!
MR. ZHOU, THE CHINESE DELIGHT IN THE RICH FLAVORS OF DRIED SHELLFISH, BUT THE TASTE OF IT FRESH? NOT SO MUCH.
THE JAPANESE, HOWEVER, ARE WELL AWARE THAT DRYING SHELLFISH BRINGS OUT ITS EXQUISITE TASTE.
MR. YAMAOKA, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
YOU'VE GOT ME THERE!
HMM...?
TOUCHE!
HEY! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY!

THANKS TO YOU, THE FILMING OF 'OYU' HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN!
WELL, THAT'S WONDERFUL!
I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE TODAY.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A PROPOSAL FOR YAMAOKA-KUN...
A MATCH FOR YAMAOKA-SAN?!
I'M NOT JOKING; PLEASE, LET'S DROP THAT!
DON'T BE SO MODEST; THIS IS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT FOR YOU!
LET'S SEE... OH MY, SHE'S QUITE A BIT OLDER, ISN'T SHE?
YEAH, SHE'S FORTY.
YAMAOKA-KUN LOVES THE YOUTHFUL ONES, BUT HE HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR MATURE BEAUTIES TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT!
へえ ほんとか
それは 知らなかった
くそっ
心配ない 心配ない

22

第10話
フライドチキン


TODAY IS A DAY OFF, AND I'VE COME TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FEELING ALL PICNIC-Y AND CHEERFUL!
I'M ALL SET TO CHECK OUT A FARM!
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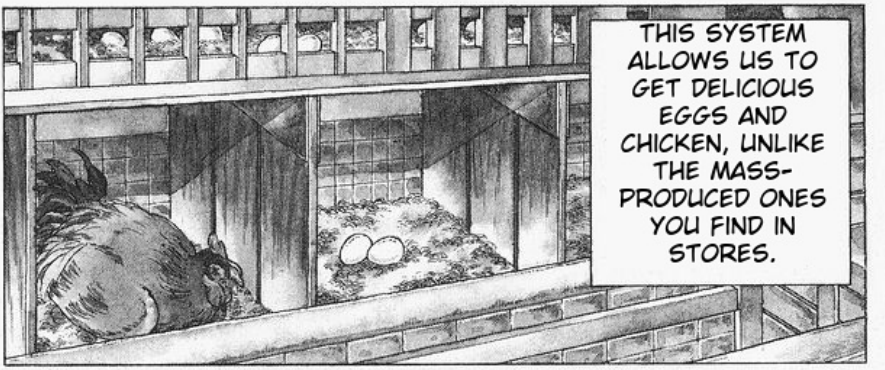
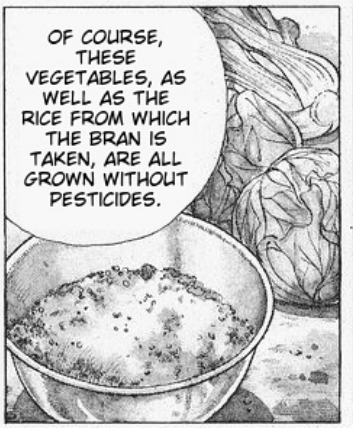
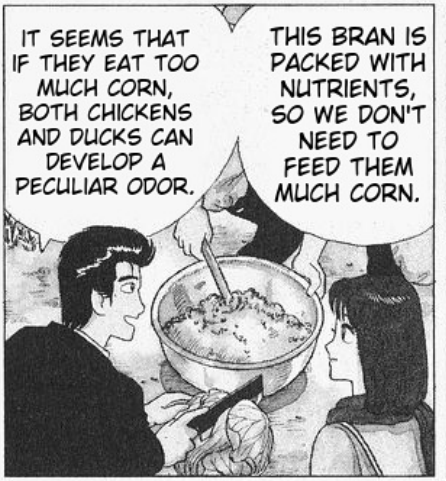
THIS PARTICULAR FARMER IS DIVING INTO A NEW VENTURE WITH CONTRACT POULTRY FARMING.
CONSUMERS SIGN CONTRACTS WITH FARMERS TO RAISE CHICKENS; THE FARMERS NURTURE THESE FEATHERED FRIENDS AND THEN DISTRIBUTE EGGS AND CHICKEN MEAT BACK TO THE CONSUMERS...

DELICIOUS!


THIS SYSTEM ALLOWS US TO GET DELICIOUS EGGS AND CHICKEN, UNLIKE THE MASS-PRODUCED ONES YOU FIND IN STORES.


OF COURSE, THESE VEGETABLES, AS WELL AS THE RICE FROM WHICH THE BRAN IS TAKEN, ARE ALL GROWN WITHOUT PESTICIDES.

PLEASE LET ME HELP FEED THE CHICKENS.
THANK YOU!
FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR TIME AND OBSERVE EVERYTHING.


IT SEEMS THAT IF THEY EAT TOO MUCH CORN, BOTH CHICKENS AND DUCKS CAN DEVELOP A PECULIAR ODOR.
THIS BRAN IS PACKED WITH NUTRIENTS, SO WE DON'T NEED TO FEED THEM MUCH CORN.

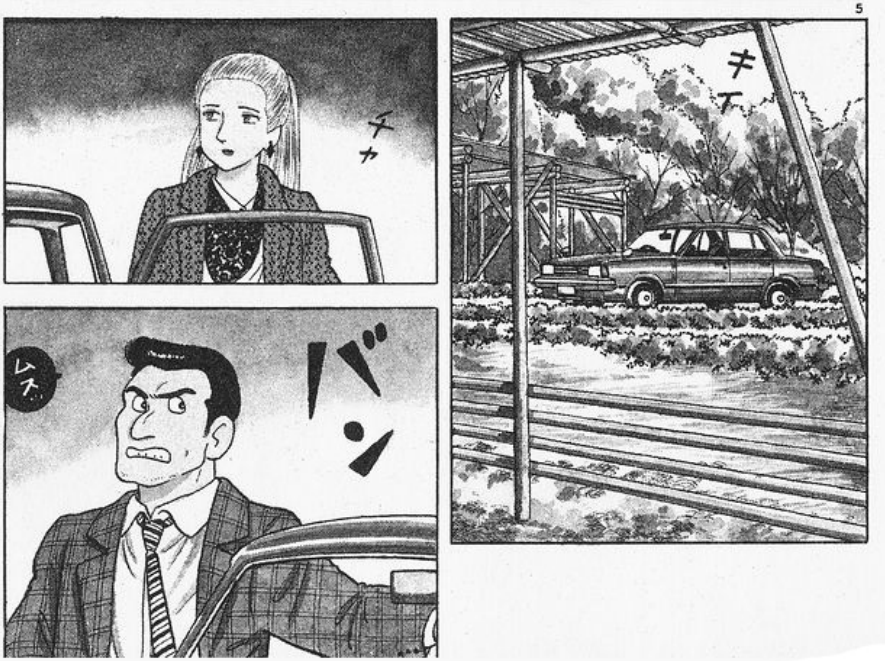
NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS, THE FEED HAS TO BE SAFE.

3

WE MIX IN CRUSHED SHELLS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR CALCIUM INTAKE.

THIS IS WORLDS APART FROM THE ANTIBIOTIC-LADEN FEED OUT THERE.
THIS IS SOME GREAT FEED; LOOK AT ALL THE VIBRANT GREEN VEGGIES MIXED IN!
WITH THIS KIND OF FEED IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, IT'S NO WONDER HEALTHY CHICKENS THRIVE!
AH, SO THE BIG WEDDING MUST BE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER THEN, HUH?
4
HEH HEH HEH...
MM...
LET'S JUMP RIGHT IN AND MAKE OUR CONTRACT!
HAVING A CONTRACT FARMER LIKE THIS IS SUCH A BLESSING!
ABSOLUTELY! HAVING SAFE EGGS AND CHICKENS IS LIKE HAVING A HUNDRED TIMES THE STRENGTH WHEN RAISING KIDS.

HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? KURITA-SAN, YOU'RE STILL WAY AHEAD OF THE GAME!
SOON, YOU'LL BOTH LEAVE ME BEHIND...
BOTH YOU AND TABATA ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED. I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!
HE'S SO EMBARRASS-ING...
UGH...



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WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
OH, IT'S MATSUKAWA FROM THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
HUH?

ISN'T THAT YAMAOKA!
HEY!

6

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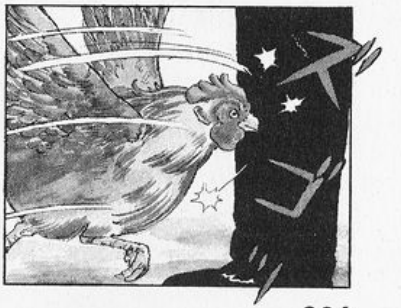
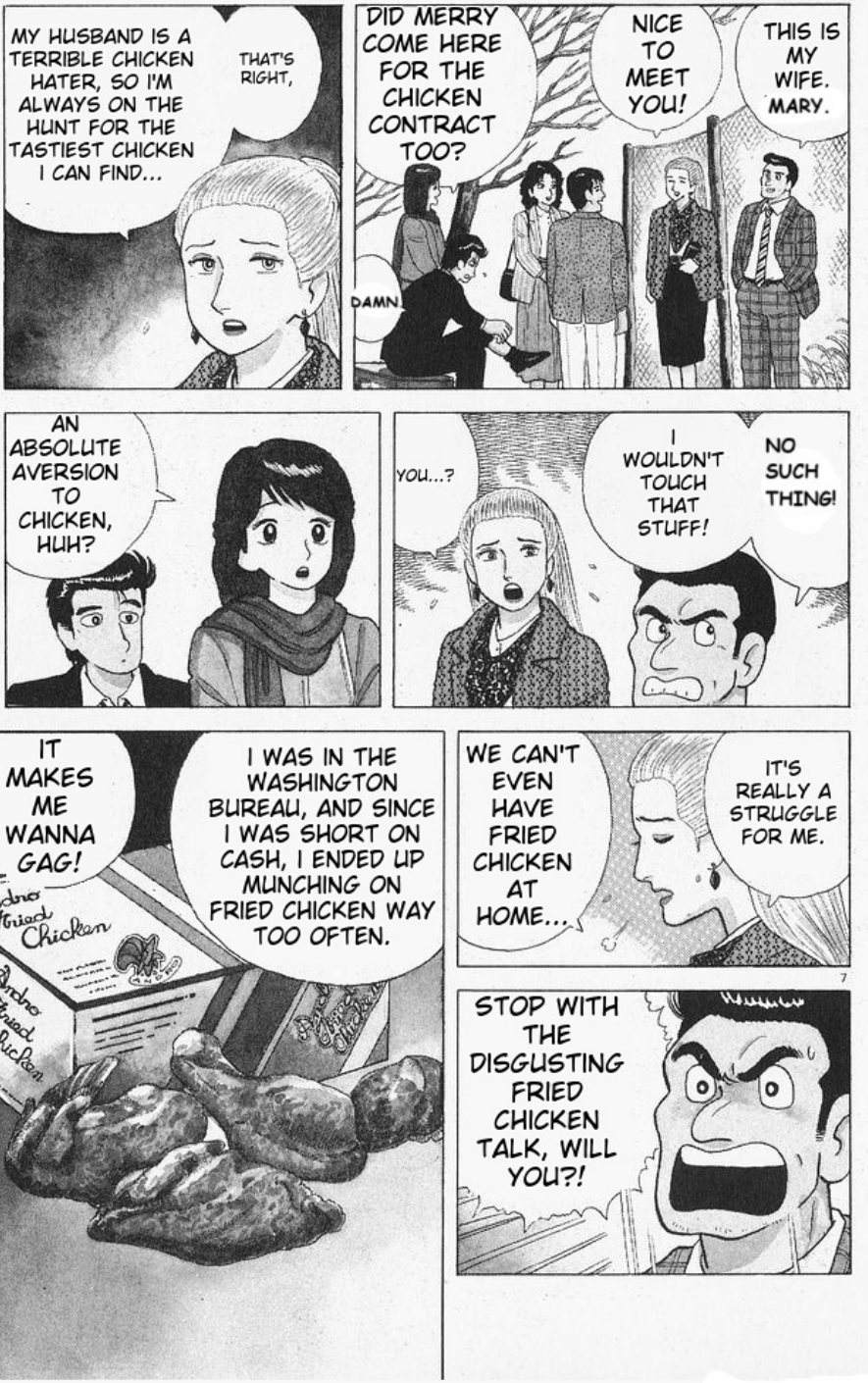
WAIT, WHAT NOW?



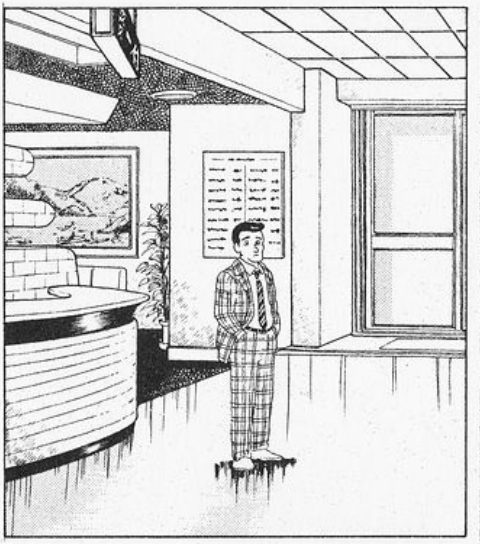
DELICIOUS!

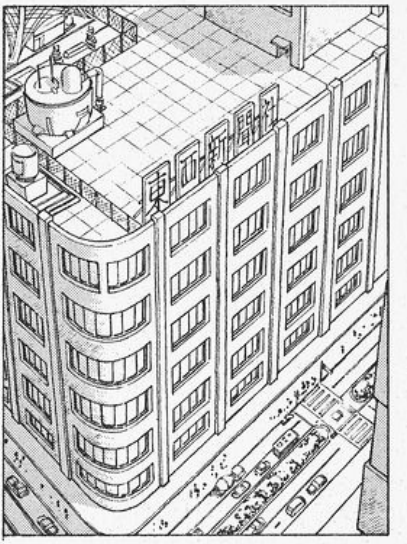

MY HUSBAND IS A TERRIBLE CHICKEN HATER, SO I'M ALWAYS ON THE HUNT FOR THE TASTIEST CHICKEN I CAN FIND...
THAT'S RIGHT,
DID MERRY COME HERE FOR THE CHICKEN CONTRACT TOO?
NICE TO MEET YOU!
THIS IS MY WIFE. MARY.
DAMN.
AN ABSOLUTE AVERSION TO CHICKEN, HUH?
YOU...?
I WOULDN'T TOUCH THAT STUFF!
NO SUCH THING!
IT MAKES ME WANNA GAG!
I WAS IN THE WASHINGTON BUREAU, AND SINCE I WAS SHORT ON CASH, I ENDED UP MUNCHING ON FRIED CHICKEN WAY TOO OFTEN.
Andre Fried Chicken
WE CAN'T EVEN HAVE FRIED CHICKEN AT HOME...
IT'S REALLY A STRUGGLE FOR ME.
7
STOP WITH THE DISGUSTING FRIED CHICKEN TALK, WILL YOU?!

THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN THAT! I NEVER WANT TO LAY EYES ON FRIED CHICKEN AGAIN!
YOU MUST REALLY DESPISE FRIED CHICKEN, HUH?
FOR ME, FRIED CHICKEN IS ONE OF HUMANITY'S WORST INVENTIONS,
IT'S SOMETHING AS DREADFUL AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS!
I LOVE AMERICA, BUT JUST THE THOUGHT OF FRIED CHICKEN MAKES ME DREAD GOING THERE.
YOU'VE GOT TO SHOW SOME LOVE FOR THE FRIED CHICKEN!
8
YOU! EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEPT COMING TO THE PLACE WHERE I WORKED PART-TIME TO DEVOUR THOSE CRISPY FRIED CHICKENS!
YUUM
YOU FOOL!!
ISN'T IT FATE THAT WE'VE COME TOGETHER LIKE THIS?!!

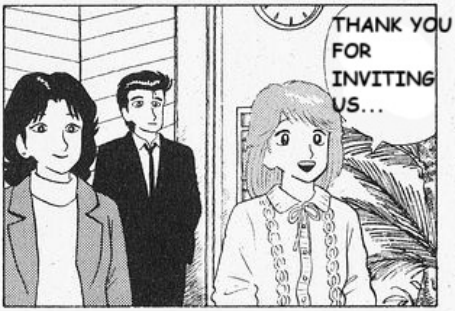
DELICIOUS!

MUST'VE BEEN QUITE THE FEAST...
WASN'T IT YOU I WAS AFTER ALL ALONG?"
I DIDN'T COME HERE JUST FOR THE FRIED CHICKEN!"
MATSUKAWA, YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST DO THIS FOR YOUR WIFE."
THE CHICKEN HERE IS BOUND TO BE DELICIOUS, WHY NOT GIVE IT A SHOT?"
UGH...
TO THINK YOU CAN'T EVEN TRY IT..."
BUT... FRIED CHICKEN FOR AMERICANS IS LIKE DRIED HORSE MACKEREL FOR JAPANESE PEOPLE."
MMM..."
9
YOU KNOW,"
ALRIGHT, FINE, I'LL TAKE A SAMPLE AFTER ALL."

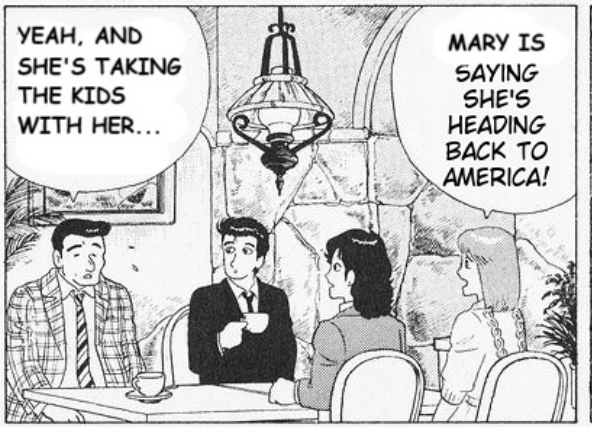


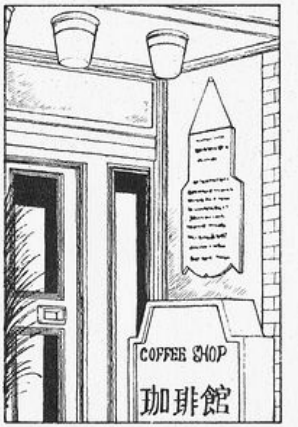


WHY THE LONG FACE?
OH... I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY.


THANK YOU FOR INVITING US...

10

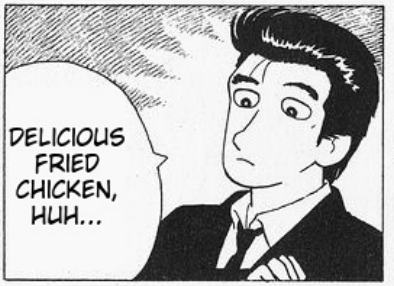

YEAH, AND SHE'S TAKING THE KIDS WITH HER...
MARY IS SAYING SHE'S HEADING BACK TO AMERICA!


COFFEE SHOP
珈琲館

YOU REALLY ARE AN ASS...
YAMAOKA SAN!
LET'S HAVE A PARTY TO CELEBRATE!!!
WELCOME BACK TO SINGLE LIFE!!!
WELL, IT WAS BETTER THAN STORE-BOUGHT FRIED CHICKEN, BUT STILL, I COULDN'T CALL IT DELICIOUS.
YOU MADE IT WITH THAT CHICKEN YOU BROUGHT HOME THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
IT'S FRIED CHICKEN, AFTER ALL.
IT'S CHICKEN, YOU KNOW,
11
MARY FINALLY REACHED HER LIMIT, HUH?
SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T LIVE WITH A SELFISH PERSON LIKE ME...
AND WHEN I SAID I'D NEVER WANT TO EAT IT AGAIN, MARY GOT ALL WORKED UP.
WELL, I WONDER WHY THAT IS?

IF THERE IS, LET ME HAVE SOME!
IS THERE REALLY NO DELICIOUS FRIED CHICKEN IN THE WORLD...?
THEN MAYBE I COULD FEAST ON CHICKEN ONCE MORE!

WELL... I GUESS WE CAN...
YOU GUYS KNOW ALL ABOUT FOOD, RIGHT? LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!


DELICIOUS FRIED CHICKEN, HUH...

IT'S A FAMILY CRISIS, AFTER ALL.
FRIED CHICKEN HAS BECOME A SERIOUS DILEMMA, HASN'T IT?

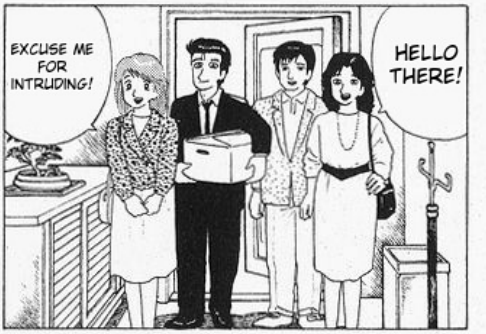
12

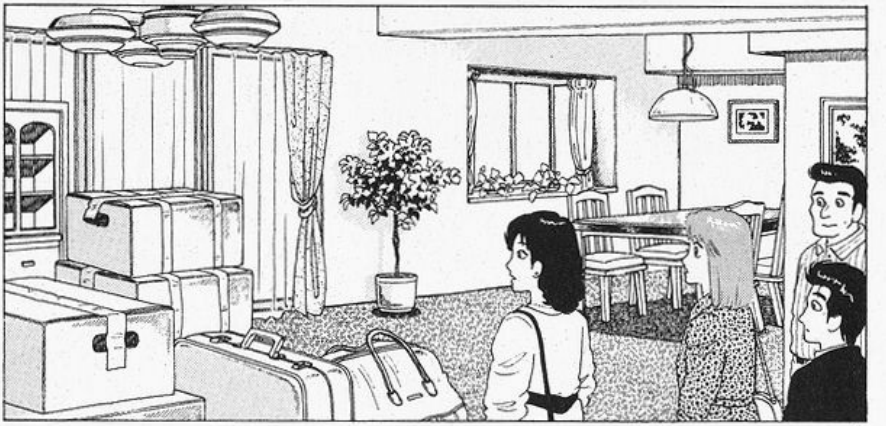
PLEASE, YAMAOKA-KUN, I'M BEGGING YOU!
WELL, IT'S NOT THAT IT DOESN'T EXIST...

.....

HELLO THERE!!
OH, SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!

503
MASAOKA
MATSUKAWA.

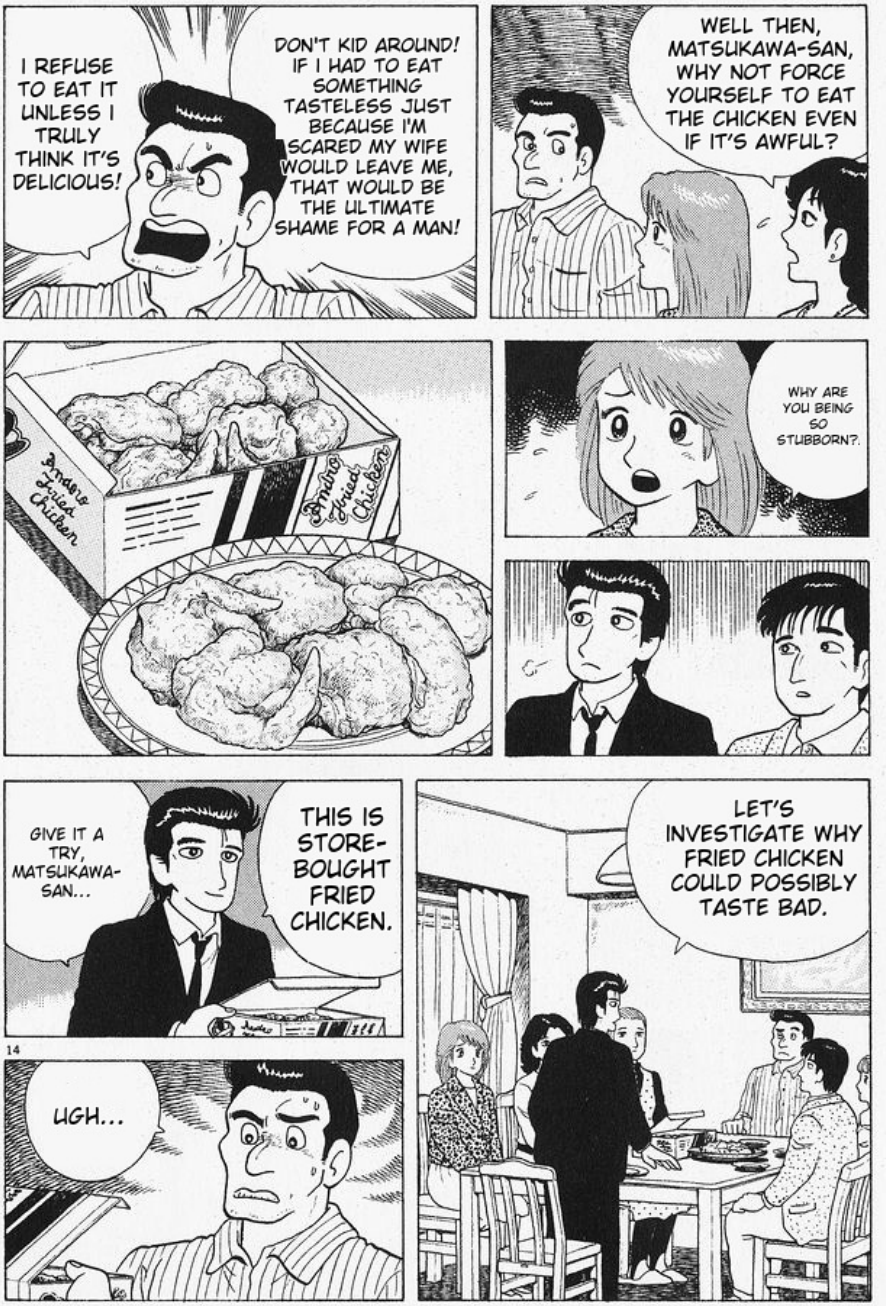

EXCUSE ME FOR INTRUDING!
HELLO THERE!



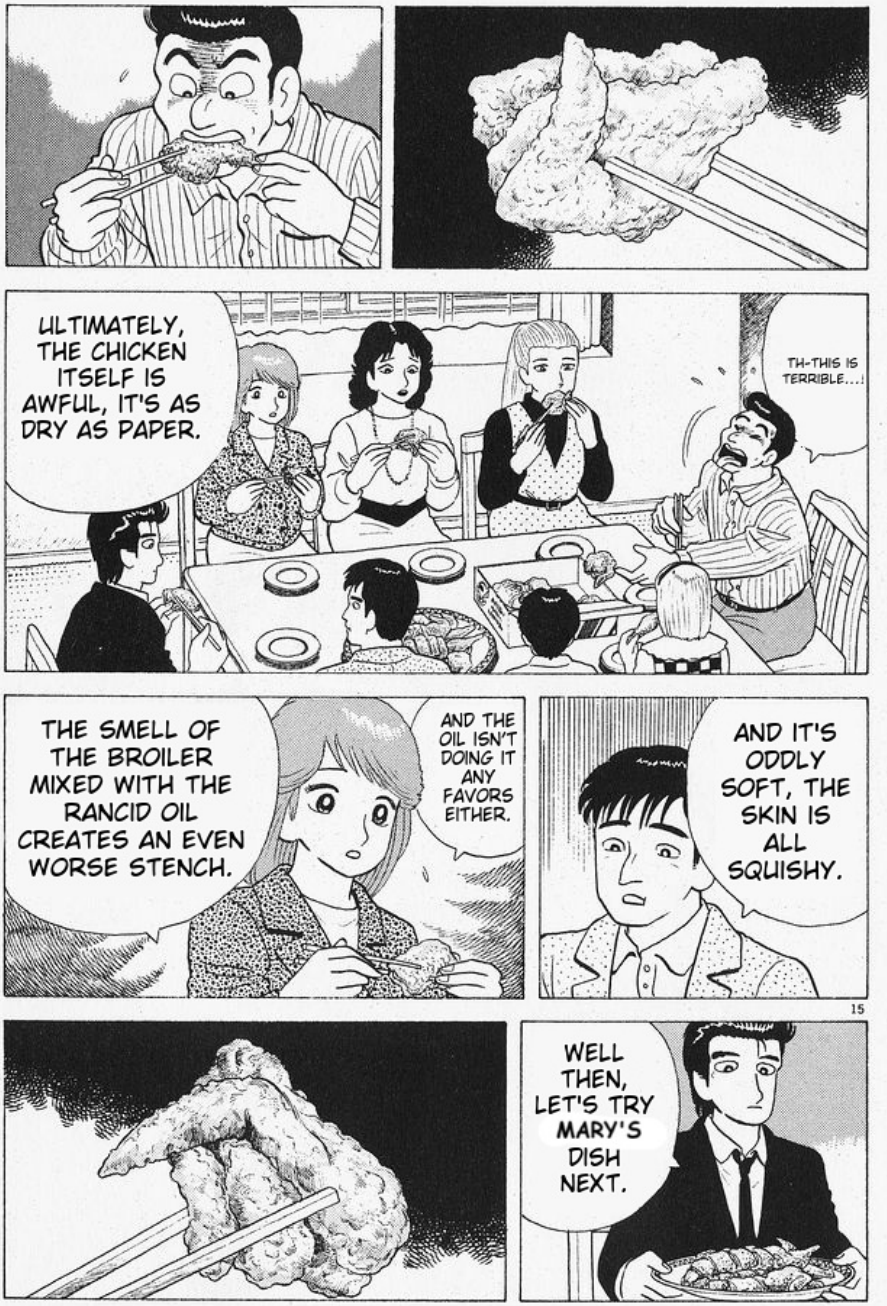
13

WOW, THAT'S QUITE A SITUATION!
YEAH, MY WIFE HAS COMPLETELY PACKED UP FOR HER RETURN TO AMERICA...

IT FEELS JUST LIKE THE NIGHT BEFORE A BIG MOVE, DOESN'T IT?

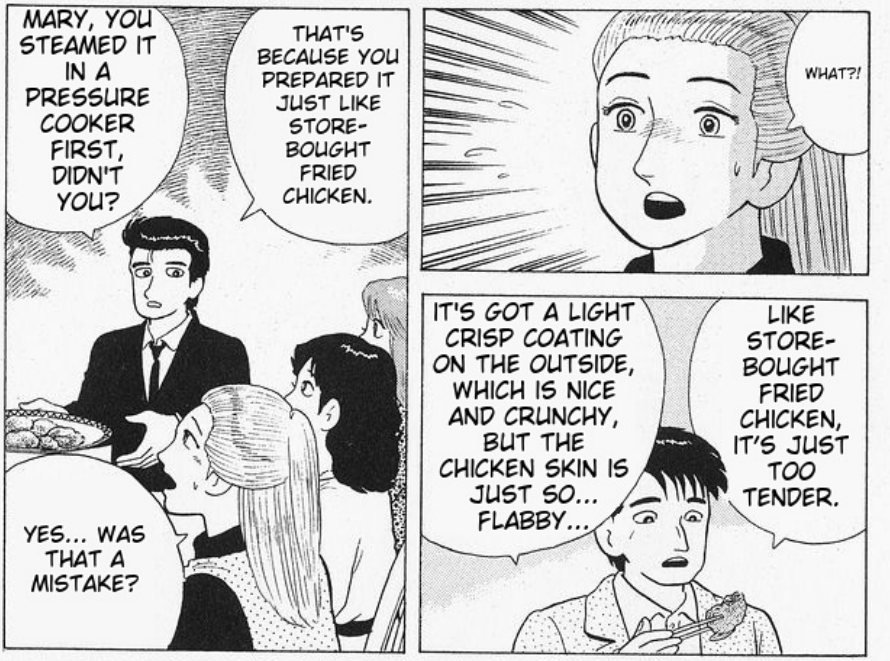

I REFUSE TO EAT IT UNLESS I TRULY THINK IT'S DELICIOUS!
DON'T KID AROUND! IF I HAD TO EAT SOMETHING TASTELESS JUST BECAUSE I'M SCARED MY WIFE WOULD LEAVE ME, THAT WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE SHAME FOR A MAN!
WELL THEN, MATSUKAWA-SAN, WHY NOT FORCE YOURSELF TO EAT THE CHICKEN EVEN IF IT'S AWFUL?
Broadway Fried Chicken
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN?
GIVE IT A TRY, MATSUKAWA-SAN...
THIS IS STORE-BOUGHT FRIED CHICKEN.
14
UGH...
LET'S INVESTIGATE WHY FRIED CHICKEN COULD POSSIBLY TASTE BAD.

DELICIOUS!

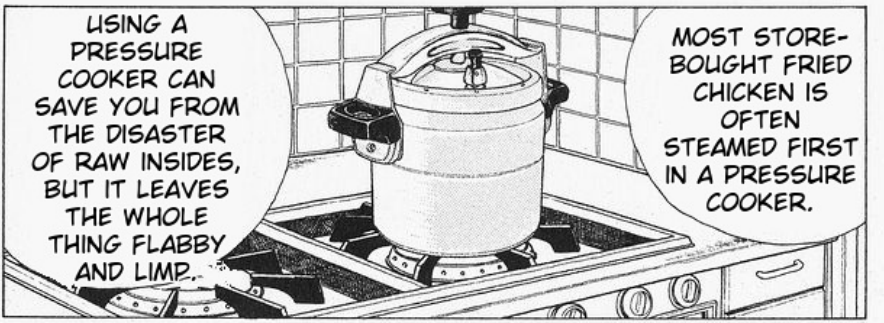

ULTIMATELY, THE CHICKEN ITSELF IS AWFUL, IT'S AS DRY AS PAPER.
TH-THIS IS TERRIBLE...!
THE SMELL OF THE BROILER MIXED WITH THE RANCID OIL CREATES AN EVEN WORSE STENCH.
AND THE OIL ISN'T DOING IT ANY FAVORS EITHER.
AND IT'S ODDLY SOFT, THE SKIN IS ALL SQUISHY.
15
WELL THEN, LET'S TRY MARY'S DISH NEXT.

THE CHICKEN ITSELF IS FINE, BUT THE COOKING METHOD LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED.
WELL, LET ME BE FRANK WITH YOU.
FEEL FREE TO SPEAK YOUR MIND.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

16

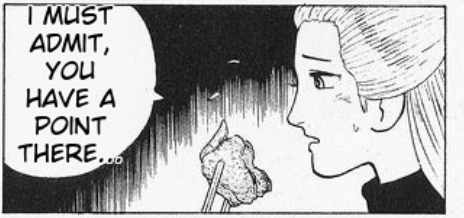

MARY, YOU STEAMED IT IN A PRESSURE COOKER FIRST, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU PREPARED IT JUST LIKE STORE-BOUGHT FRIED CHICKEN.
YES... WAS THAT A MISTAKE?
WHAT?!
IT'S GOT A LIGHT CRISP COATING ON THE OUTSIDE, WHICH IS NICE AND CRUNCHY, BUT THE CHICKEN SKIN IS JUST SO... FLABBY...
LIKE STORE-BOUGHT FRIED CHICKEN, IT'S JUST TOO TENDER.

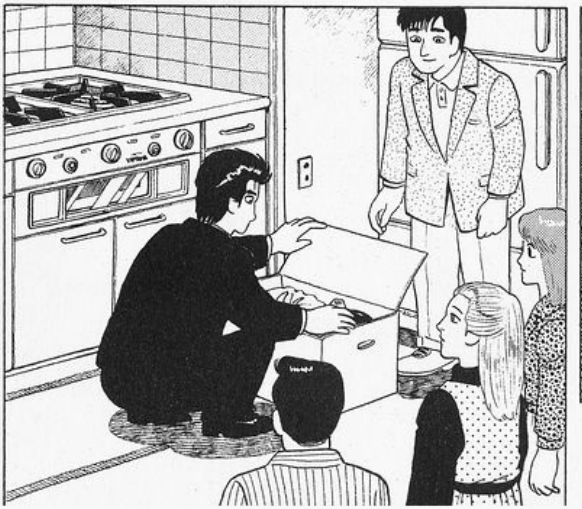
DELICIOUS!

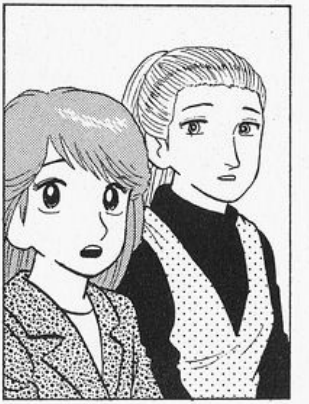

USING A PRESSURE COOKER CAN SAVE YOU FROM THE DISASTER OF RAW INSIDES, BUT IT LEAVES THE WHOLE THING FLABBY AND LIMP.
MOST STORE-BOUGHT FRIED CHICKEN IS OFTEN STEAMED FIRST IN A PRESSURE COOKER.

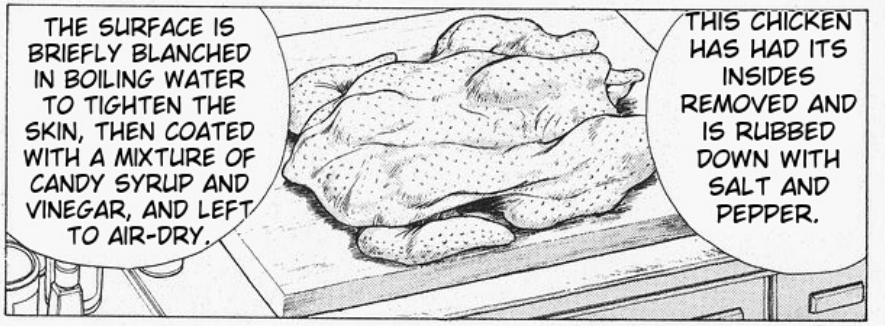
WHILE IT'S A TAD DIFFERENT FROM FRIED CHICKEN, IT'S THE ULTIMATE WAY TO SAVOR THAT DELICIOUS BIRD!
MARY, TODAY I'M GOING TO SHARE WITH YOU THE SECRET TO THE PERFECT CHICKEN DISH!

IT'S ALL MUSHY, SO IT JUST DOESN'T HIT THE SPOT!
THAT'S THE THING; NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE CHICKEN IS,

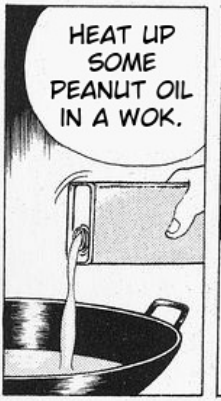

I MUST ADMIT, YOU HAVE A POINT THERE...

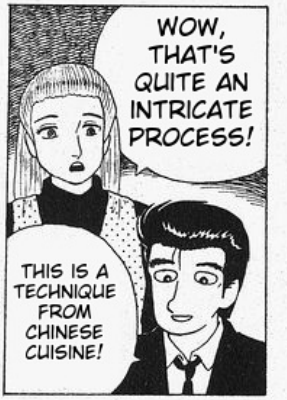





THE SURFACE IS BRIEFLY BLANCHED IN BOILING WATER TO TIGHTEN THE SKIN, THEN COATED WITH A MIXTURE OF CANDY SYRUP AND VINEGAR, AND LEFT TO AIR-DRY.
THIS CHICKEN HAS HAD ITS INSIDES REMOVED AND IS RUBBED DOWN WITH SALT AND PEPPER.

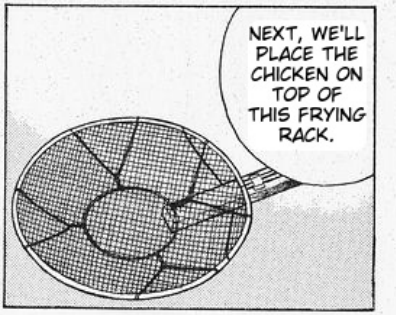
NOW, TAKE YOUR TIME TO OBSERVE CLOSELY.
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO PUT THE WHOLE CHICKEN IN THERE?

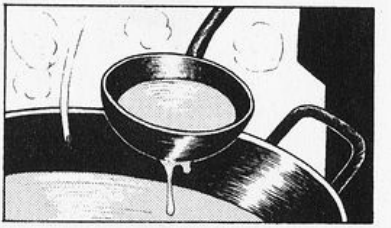

HEAT UP SOME PEANUT OIL IN A WOK.


WOW, THAT'S QUITE AN INTRICATE PROCESS!
THIS IS A TECHNIQUE FROM CHINESE CUISINE!

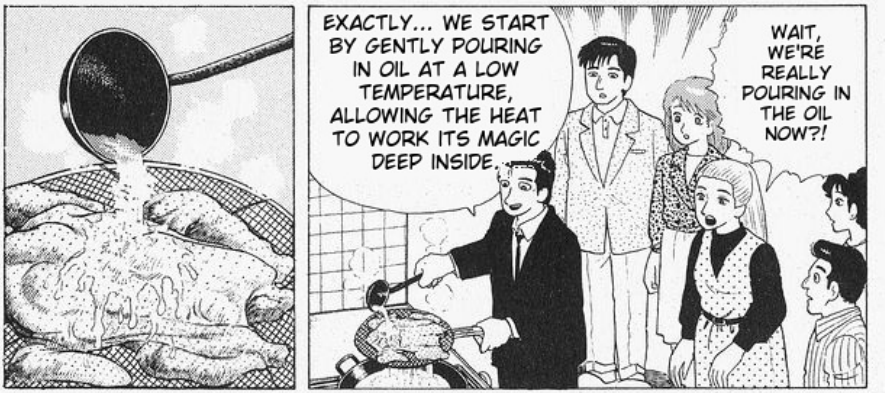
18

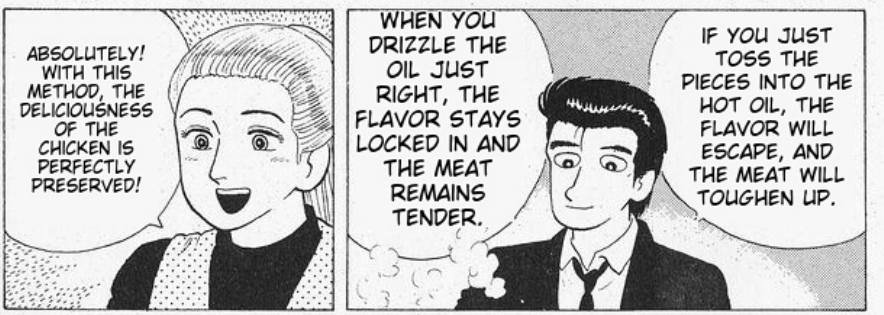
FIRST, YOU DRIZZLE IT ON BEFORE THE OIL GETS TOO HOT.

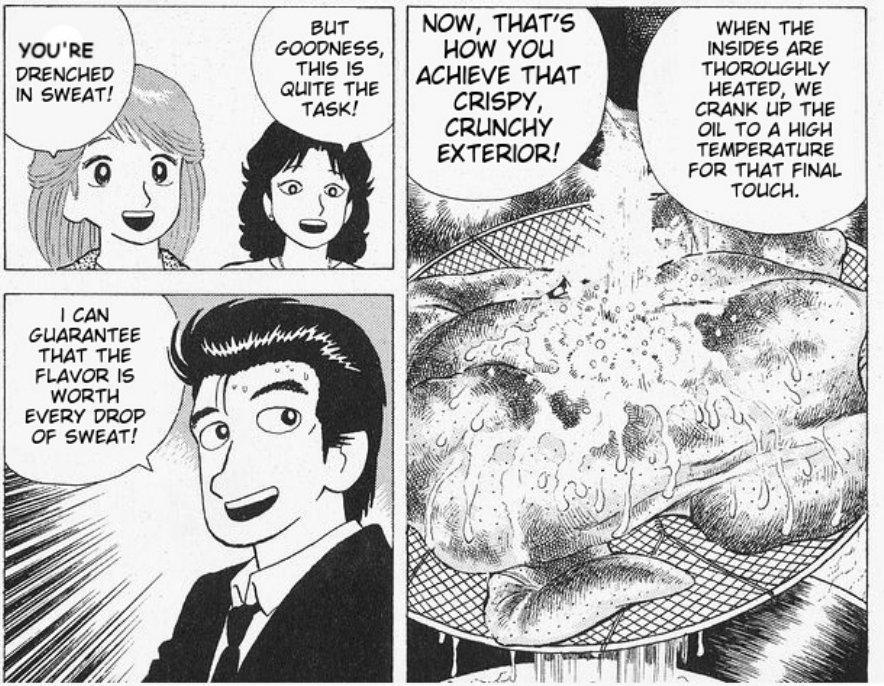

NEXT, WE'LL PLACE THE CHICKEN ON TOP OF THIS FRYING RACK.

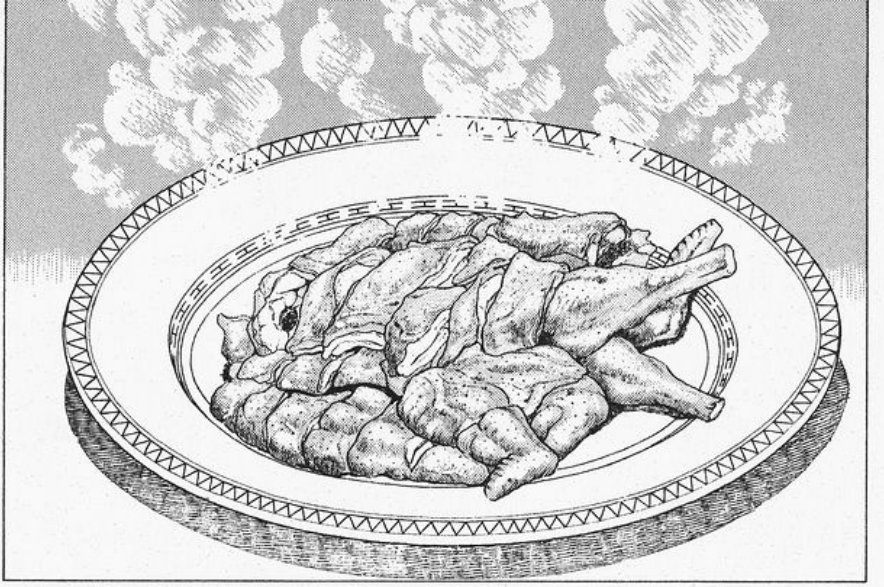


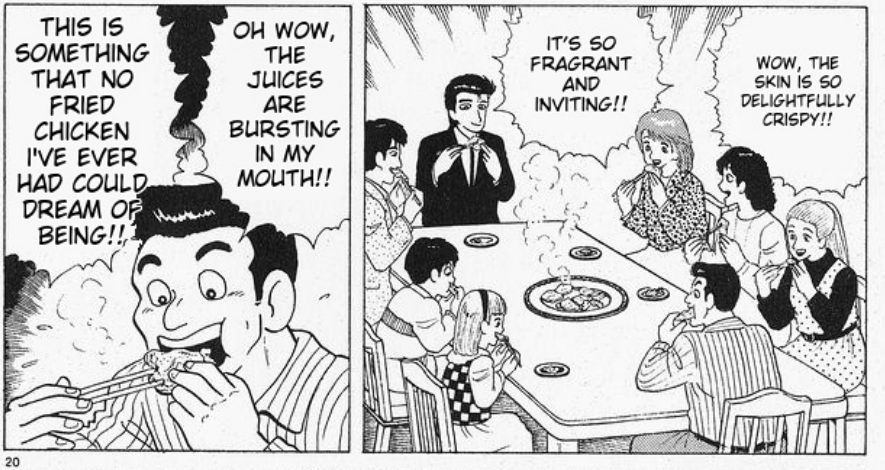
DELICIOUS!


EXACTLY... WE START BY GENTLY POURING IN OIL AT A LOW TEMPERATURE, ALLOWING THE HEAT TO WORK ITS MAGIC DEEP INSIDE.
WAIT, WE'RE REALLY POURING IN THE OIL NOW?!

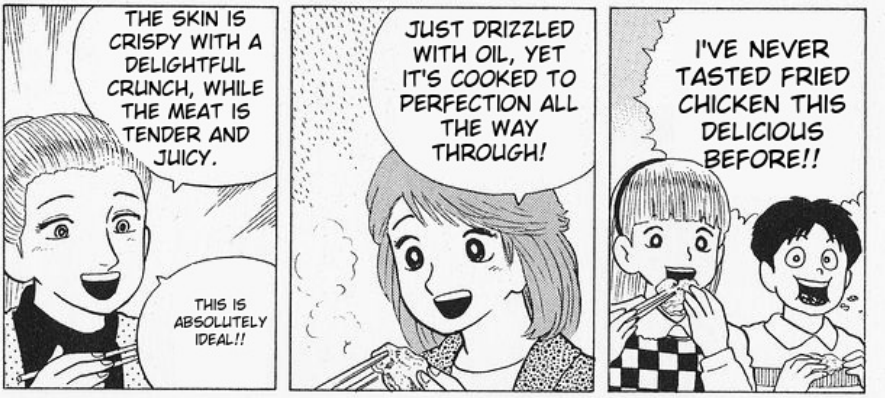

ABSOLUTELY! WITH THIS METHOD, THE DELICIOUSNESS OF THE CHICKEN IS PERFECTLY PRESERVED!
WHEN YOU DRIZZLE THE OIL JUST RIGHT, THE FLAVOR STAYS LOCKED IN AND THE MEAT REMAINS TENDER.
IF YOU JUST TOSS THE PIECES INTO THE HOT OIL, THE FLAVOR WILL ESCAPE, AND THE MEAT WILL TOUGHEN UP.


YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT!
BUT GOODNESS, THIS IS QUITE THE TASK!
I CAN GUARANTEE THAT THE FLAVOR IS WORTH EVERY DROP OF SWEAT!
NOW, THAT'S HOW YOU ACHIEVE THAT CRISPY, CRUNCHY EXTERIOR!
WHEN THE INSIDES ARE THOROUGHLY HEATED, WE CRANK UP THE OIL TO A HIGH TEMPERATURE FOR THAT FINAL TOUCH.




THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NO FRIED CHICKEN I'VE EVER HAD COULD DREAM OF BEING!!
OH WOW, THE JUICES ARE BURSTING IN MY MOUTH!!
IT'S SO FRAGRANT AND INVITING!!
WOW, THE SKIN IS SO DELIGHTFULLY CRISPY!!

20


THE SKIN IS CRISPY WITH A DELIGHTFUL CRUNCH, WHILE THE MEAT IS TENDER AND JUICY.
THIS IS ABSOLUTELY IDEAL!!
JUST DRIZZLED WITH OIL, YET IT'S COOKED TO PERFECTION ALL THE WAY THROUGH!
I'VE NEVER TASTED FRIED CHICKEN THIS DELICIOUS BEFORE!!

DELICIOUS!

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEVOUR THREE OR EVEN FOUR AT ONCE!
SHUSH, DAD HASN'T TOUCHED CHICKEN IN YEARS, YOU KNOW!

GOING FOR TWO AT ONCE? THAT'S JUST UNFAIR!!
OH, DAD, THAT'S SO UNFAIR!!

I REALLY LIKE THIS, I HAD NO IDEA CHICKEN COULD BE THIS DELICIOUS!
MAKE SURE TO ASK YAMAOKA FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE RECIPE.
WELL, WELL.

I WANT SOME TOO!!
WELL, I DESERVE IT TOO!!

NOW, NOW, LET'S KEEP IT CIVIL IN FRONT OF OUR GUESTS.

'OISHINBO' VOLUME 10 - THE END -"

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